CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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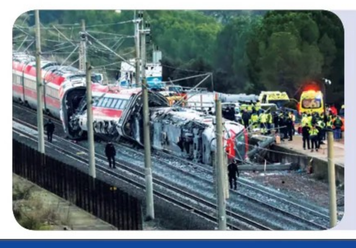

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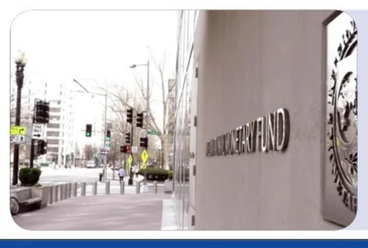

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'Sleaze clips' put K'taka top cop Rao in spotlight

The undated video appears to have been filmed with a mobile phone inside his chamber and is said to be a compilation of multiple video clips.

BENGALURU

Karnataka police are left red-faced after a video purportedly showing Director General of Police (DGP) Ramachandra Rao in uniform in a compromising position with several women inside his office went viral on Monday.

It comes just a day after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah expressed strong displeasure over tainted police officials in the state.

Rao was caught on camera while allegedly kissing and cuddling with women while he was in uniform.

As the video went viral, Rao rushed to the residence of Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara.

Later speaking to reporters, he termed the video as fabricated and urged for an urgent investigation into the 'serious' matter.

He remarked he is in complete shock because of the fabricated video and added that a case against those spreading false news would be filed once he meets his advocate.

When asked if the video was shot in his office, the DGP said he served in Belagavi eight years back but did not elaborated or clarified the link between his Belagavi stint and the video.

The 47-second-long video looks being filmed using a mobile phone inside his police chamber. A compilation of multiple video clips, the video has sparked nationwide outrage.

Following the circulation of the footage, Bengaluru-based advocate Owaiz Hussain submitted a complaint to the chief minister, the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, and the Director General and Inspector General of Police, seeking immediate immediate action. In his complaint, Hussain clarified that he was neither asserting the authenticity of the video nor making any direct allegation against the officer concerned, but sought an inquiry as the footage had entered the public domain.

CM ORDERS PROBE

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said stringent action would be taken against the officer after a thorough inquiry. On the viral video of DGP K Ramachandra Rao, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah says, "The matter came to light this morning. We will take disciplinary action against him. No matter how tall someone is, we will investigate and take action; no one is above the law."

STEP-DAUGHTER IN JAIL

A 1993-batch IPS officer, R Ramachandra Rao was previously in news when his step-daughter Ranya Rao was arrested by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) for smuggling 14.2 kg of gold from Dubai. Ranya is presently lodged in the Bengaluru Central Prison. Following Ranya's arrest, Rao was placed on suspension, which was revoked in August 2025.

Rao, a Guntur native, is due to retire on superannuation in July.

WHAT'S SHOWN IN VIRAL VIDEO?

The footage shows the DGP in compromising positions with women during duty hours inside his. The women are allegedly said to have visited Rao on multiple occasions and were dressed differently each time. The video reportedly captures scenes of kissing, groping, hugging and flirtatious behaviour. There have been no allegations of undue force or coercion till now, but the conduct of the top cop has drawn sharp criticism from all spheres.

NABIN REPLACES NADDA AS BJP NATIONAL PREZ

NEW DELHI

BJP leader Nitin Nabin has been elected unopposed as the national president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and will formally take charge on January 20.

The transition ceremony will be held at 11.30 am at the party's headquarters and is expected to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and other senior party leaders.

In a press statement, BJP's National Returning Officer Dr K Laxman said the election process commenced after the party completed the election of 30 out of its 36 state presidents, exceeding the constitutional requirement of a minimum 50 per cent.

According to the statement, the notification for the schedule of events was issued, and the electoral roll was published on January 16, 2026. As per the announced schedule, the nomination process was conducted on January 19 between 2 pm and 4 pm.

He said a total of 37 sets of nomination papers were submitted in support of Nitin Nabin. Upon scrutiny, all nominations were found to be valid and in the prescribed format. Following the withdrawal period, he formally declared Nabin as the sole candidate proposed for the post of BJP national president.

At 45, Nabin's elevation is being seen as a generational shift in the party's leadership, coinciding with the BJP's 45th year since its formation

At 45, Nabin's elevation is being seen as a generational shift in the party's leadership, coinciding with the BJP's 45th year since its formation. Observers view his unopposed election as part of the party's broader strategy to encourage younger leadership while strengthening organisational cohesion ahead of upcoming electoral challenges.

The smooth and uncontested process, conducted under the supervision of the national returning officer, underscored the BJP's emphasis on internal consensus and procedural discipline throughout the stages of nomination, scrutiny and withdrawal.

Who's Nitin Nabin?

Nitin Nabin's journey from a leader of the Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha, the youth wing of the BJP, to the national president of the BJP has been a storybook rise. MLA at 26 and party president at 45, Nabin, who was elected unopposed on Monday, has become the party's youngest chief. Born in Patna, he is the son of late Nabin Kishore Prasad Sinha, a former BJP MLA. Following his father's untimely demise, Nabin entered active politics and gradually carved out his own space within the party.

Now a senior leader of the Bihar BJP, he established himself as a prominent figure in the state's political landscape. A five-term MLA from Bihar and the state's PWD Minister, he has, by and large, maintained a low profile. He has been a consistent representative of the Bankipur Assembly constituency in Patna. Known for his strong grassroots support, he won the Assembly seat in 2010, 2015, 2020 and 2025t — in addition to a by-poll victory in 2006. His latest win in the recently held Bihar Assembly polls saw him defeat his nearest rival by a margin of over 51,000 votes.

The draft electoral list with 88.91 lakh voters has been released, objections are open till Feb 3, and the final list will be published on March 16

Ballot paper to replace EVMs in GBA polls

BENGALURU

Elections to city's five corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will be held using ballot papers instead of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). The polls will be conducted after May 25 once the SSLC and PUC examinations are over, said State Election Commission (SEC).

Though the SEC did not give specific reasons for opting for ballot papers, it confirmed that EVNs will not be used in the upcoming civic polls.

The decision was revealed during a press meet held in connection with the GBA elections and the release of the draft voter list. State Election Commissioner GS Sangreshi and commissioners of all five city corporations were present.

Clarifying the decision, the SEC stated that it is an independent constitutional body and that the choice of using ballot papers is its own. It noted that there are no flaws in either EVMs or ballot papers, and the Supreme Court has not issued any directive prohibiting the use of ballot papers.

It further pointed out that district panchayat and taluk panchayat elections are regularly conducted using ballot papers, making the method well established.

NOTE THE POINTS

- GBA elections to be held via ballot paper.
- Draft voter list released with 88.91 lakh voters.
- Final voter list to be published on March 16.

Draft voter list released

Alongside this announcement, the draft voter list for the GBA area was officially published. As per the draft data, Greater Bengaluru has a total of 88,91,411 voters, including 45,69,193 men, 43,20,583 women, and 1,635 voters in the 'other' category.

15-day window to make changes

From Tuesday, voters can file objections or submit corrections related to the draft voter list. The objection period will remain open until February 3. During this time, Booth Level Officers will carry out door-to-door verification to cross-check voter details. Citizens can seek corrections if their names are missing, wrongly entered, or if there are errors in personal details. The final voter list is scheduled to be published on March 16.

India-UAE sign historic trade deal, eye $100 billion annual trade

NEW DELHI

India and the United Arab Emirates on Monday set a target of USD 200 billion in annual trade by 2032 and agreed to seal a strategic defence pact while boosting cooperation in energy, space and civil nuclear sectors with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan laying out a broad agenda to shore up ties. Modi welcomed Al Nahyan at the Delhi airport with a hug and then they travelled together in the same vehicle to the prime minister's residence, where they held talks in the restricted as well as delegation-level formats.

"This has been a short, but extremely substantive visit," Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said at a media briefing after the UAE leader concluded his nearly three-and-a-half-hour visit that came amid increasing tensions in the Middle East and trade disruptions caused by Washington's policy on tariffs.

The two sides decided to explore a partnership in advanced nuclear technologies, including development of large nuclear reactors and small modular reactors, as well as cooperation in advanced reactor systems and nuclear power plant operations, he said.

A long-term agreement for the supply of 0.5 million metric tonnes of LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) annually was concluded by the two sides.

The UAE is India's second-largest supplier of LNG to India after Qatar.

IN SHORT

- India-UAE agreed to seal a strategic defence pact while boosting cooperation in energy, space and civil nuclear sectors
- The UAE is India's second-largest supplier of LNG to India after Qatar.
- Modi-Nahyan resolved to significantly expand their defence ties.
- Both the countries will also explore the possibility of setting up a "data embassy",

Artificial Intelligence was identified as a priority area of cooperation and it was decided to collaborate on setting up a supercomputing cluster in India with the UAE partnership, Misri said, adding the Gulf nation will also look at investments for expanding data centre capacities in India.

More on page 6

UP CM orders SIT probe into Noida techie's death

LUCKNOW

Taking cognisance of the death of a software engineer in a road accident in Noida, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered an SIT probe into the incident, officials said. On the CMs directions, a three-member Special Investigation Team has been constituted to inquire into the circumstances leading to the accident in Sector 150, where the techie's car plunged into a water-filled pit at a construction site two days ago, a senior official said. The SIT will be headed by the Additional Director General (ADG), Meerut Zone. The Meerut divisional commissioner and the chief engineer of the Public Works Department (PWD) have also been included as members of the panel, the officer added. Yuvraj Mehta (27) died after his car plunged into a water-filled pit at an under-construction site.

QUICK READ

Air crash: AI returns belongings to kin

AHMEDABAD

Seven months after the horrific Ahmedabad air crash that killed 260 persons, Air India has started the process of returning personal belongings to the affected families, a spokesperson for the airline said on Monday. On June 12 last year, Air India flight AI 171, a Boeing 787-8 aircraft enroute to London Gatwick, crashed into a medical college hostel complex shortly after take off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport. The aircraft burst into flames, killing 241 out of 242 people onboard and 19 individuals on the ground. Over 22,000 personal belongings have been preserved and listed on a dedicated portal.

Several killed in Afghan blast

DHAKA

Several people were killed in a blast in Afghan capital ₹Kabul's Shahr-e-Naw area, the Taliban interior ministry said on Monday. "According to preliminary reports, a number of people were killed and injured," Interior Ministry ₹ spokesperson Abdul Mateen Qani told Reuters, adding that ₹details ₹would be released later. Kabul police spokesperson Khalid Zadran said the blast targeted a hotel in the commercial Shahr-e-Naw ₹neighbourhood that includes large office buildings, shopping complexes and embassies. The Shahr-e-Naw area is home to foreigners and is considered one of the most secure areas in Kabul.

Time will answer everything: DKS

BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday indicated that the leadership row involving himself and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has been discussed by the two leaders in the presence of Congress high command, they have arrived at a decision and that there was time for everything. "Time will answer everything," he added.

"Do you know what the CM and I have discussed in front of Rahul Gandhi and the high command? We know what we've decided. I can't discuss that in the media," he said.

He blamed the media for "unnecessary" confusion. "There's no buzz on the leadership issue. The CM and I have communicated to the party leadership. The party will take a call," he said.

BOTH UNFAIR AND UNJUSTIFIED

'India 'selectively targeted' on Russia-Ukraine war'

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday criticised what he described as the selective targeting of India over its position on the Russia-Ukraine war.

"In the recent past, both in New York last September and in Paris this January, I have candidly shared our views on the Ukraine conflict and its implications. While doing so, I have also repeatedly underlined that the selective targeting of India is both unfair and unjustified. I do so again today," Jaishankar said.

The External Affairs Minister was delivering opening remarks during delegation-level talks with visiting Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland, Radoslaw Sikorski, in New Delhi.

The meeting between the two ministers comes at a time when the world is witnessing significant "global churn", and Jaishankar underlined the need for closer engagement between India and Poland.

Responding to Jaishankar's remarks on tariffs, his Polish counterpart Sikoski said the tariffs imposed by the United States are leading to global trade turbulence. He also noted India's seriousness in expanding relations with Europe, which has also been targeted by the US administration of President Donald Trump.

I also completely agree with you on the unfairness of selective targeting, by tariffs. And we in Europe know something about that. Also, we fear that this is progressing to a global trade turbulence.

—Radoslaw Sikorski, Poland FM

"I also completely agree with you on the unfairness of selective targeting, by tariffs. And we in Europe know something about that. Also, we fear that this is progressing to a global trade turbulence. We are hoping that India will continue to stay engaged in Europe. We've noticed that you are establishing embassies everywhere in Europe, which means that you are serious about relations with the European Union," Sikoski said.

QUICK READ

Siddaramaiah Will Present Budget for Sure: Minister Boseraju

Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will "100 percent" present the upcoming State budget, Minister Boseraju said on Monday, dismissing speculation over a leadership change in the Congress. Speaking at Vikas Soudha, Boseraju said the party high command's decision on leadership was final and that both the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister had reiterated their commitment to it. He added that leadership change was not a closed chapter, but there was no such situation at present. Hitting out at the BJP, Boseraju said the opposition was "barking from morning to evening" and should point out shortcomings instead of making baseless allegations.

Faster Rail Link to Dharmavaram for Bengalureans by March

Bengaluru

Travel from Bengaluru to Dharmavaram in Andhra Pradesh is set to become faster with the completion of rail speed upgradation by March. The 161-km stretch between Yelahanka and Dharmavaram is being upgraded to support speeds of up to 130 kmph, significantly reducing travel time. The improved corridor will benefit several high-occupancy services, including the Yeswantpur–Kacheguda Vande Bharat Express, and allow superfast trains to operate at their full potential. Long-awaited by passengers, the upgrade promises smoother and quicker connectivity to Andhra Pradesh.

Lokayukta Trap Case: Complaint Filed Against Thimmapura

Bengaluru

In the wake of the Lokayukta trap involving Excise Deputy Commissioner Jagadish Nayak, a formal complaint has been filed against Karnataka Excise Minister R.B. Thimmapura. Lakshminarayan, the complainant in the trap case, has approached the Lokayukta seeking an investigation into the alleged role of the Minister. The complaint has been submitted to Lokayukta SP Shivaprakash Devaraj along with supporting documents, including audio recordings purportedly involving Excise DC Jagadish Nayak. The development is likely to add to the Minister's troubles as the Lokayukta examines the material submitted and decides on further action in the case.

VRS Plea Does Not Guarantee Approval, High Court Rules

Voluntary retirement application alone gives no enforceable right to exit service: HC

BENGALURU

Mere submission of an application seeking voluntary retirement does not automatically entitle an employee to be relieved from service, the Karnataka High Court has held, while dismissing the appeal of a Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) driver who was removed from service for repeated unauthorised absence.

A Division Bench comprising Justices Anu Sivaraman and Vijayakumar A. Patil upheld a September 2022 single-judge order that had set aside a labour court directive asking KSRTC to consider the employee's voluntary retirement application. The Bench observed that the labour court had erred in interfering with the dismissal despite finding the domestic inquiry to be fair and the charges proved.

The appellant, L. Srinivas, a driver from Chitradurga, joined KSRTC in 1997. Over

the years, he was repeatedly penalised for unauthorised absence. In 2010, KSRTC dismissed him from service, but the labour court in 2011 set aside the dismissal and ordered his reinstatement, while imposing a penalty of reduction of four increments with cumulative effect.

However, even after being reinstated, Srinivas again remained unauthorisedly absent from January 18, 2013. Following a disciplinary inquiry, KSRTC removed him from service on July 10, 2015, after the charges were proved.

Srinivas once again approached the labour court. While the labour court held that the inquiry was fair and proper, it nevertheless set aside the dismissal and directed KSRTC to consider his application for voluntary retirement, which he claimed to have submitted during the inquiry proceedings. Aggrieved, KSRTC moved the High Court.

Allowing the corporation's writ petition, the single judge noted that Srinivas had been given a second opportunity earlier but still continued to remain absent from January 18 to October 7, 2013. Given his past record and the fact that this was his second dismissal, the court held that the labour court could not have interfered with the punishment once it had upheld the inquiry and found the absence unjustified.

Dismissing Srinivas' appeal, the Division Bench said the labour court had set aside the dismissal solely on the ground that the employee had applied under the voluntary retirement scheme, which was legally unsustainable. The Bench noted that Srinivas failed to prove that he had submitted proper leave applications supported by medical certificates. The labour court had also disregarded the documents relied upon to justify his absence, as only a photocopy of a medical certificate was produced and not marked in evidence.

The court further observed that if the absence was indeed on medical grounds, there was no explanation for failing to inform the employer. Apart from a bald claim under Section 47 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, there was no material to show that he had sought lighter duties.

In cases of continuous unauthorised absence, the labour court should not have ordered reinstatement or directed consideration of voluntary retirement, the Bench held, dismissing the writ appeal.

Will Relax Compliance Norms, Minister Tells Private Schools

BENGALURU

State Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa on Monday assured private school managements that the government would significantly relax compliance norms required for renewal of school recognition, including building and fire safety parameters, to reduce harassment and simplify procedures.

Addressing the 'Vision Mission' education conference organised by the Associated Managements of English Medium Schools in Karnataka (KAMS), the Minister said the number of mandatory compliance conditions had already been reduced from 65 to around 30, and efforts were underway to bring them down further to nearly 25.

"The aim is to simplify the process so that you don't have to come to our offices at all. If I come across any kind of harassment by officials, I will not hesitate to punish them," Bangarappa said, reassuring school managements of transparent and streamlined governance.

He added that compliance norms must evolve with changing conditions and modern methods of learning and teaching, and that rigid rules framed decades ago needed review to suit contemporary educational realities.

During the interaction, Legislative Council member D.S. Puttannaiah urged the government to reduce what he described as excessive "interference" by departmental officials, particularly Block Education Officers (BEOs). "Once permission is granted, why should officials continue to bother schools?" he asked, also pointing out that institutions were required to submit extensive documentation to bodies such as the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR).

Responding to the concerns, the Minister said that while the government was keen to ease genuine difficulties faced by private schools, departments functioning under their respective legal mandates could not be entirely bypassed. He informed the gathering that a House committee headed by Puttannaiah had been constituted to examine challenges faced by private schools, particularly in producing old records, building plans, and approvals sought during renewal of recognition.

Private school representatives urged Minister Madhu Bangarappa to introduce two options for mathematics for SSLC students, similar to the CBSE system. CBSE offers students a choice between standard and basic mathematics in Class 10. KAMS General Secretary D. Shashi Kumar said extending a similar option to state board students would help reduce fear of mathematics, improve learning outcomes, and enable students to score better in SSLC examinations.

Bangarappa also reflected on the initial challenges of holding the education portfolio. "There is a saying that if a politician's career has to be ruined, they should be made education minister. I don't believe in that," he remarked, highlighting several reforms initiated under his tenure.

Among the key measures, he cited the introduction of webcasting during examinations to improve transparency, conducting three sets of SSLC examinations to reduce pressure on students, lowering the pass mark to 33 per cent, and the decision not to charge examination fees for the second and third SSLC attempts.

The Minister said the government remained committed to balancing regulatory oversight with academic freedom, while ensuring student welfare and institutional accountability.

Data Shows 3% Decline in Cervical Cancer Cases in Four Years

BENGALURU

Hospital-based cancer registry data from the state-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KMIO) indicates a gradual decline in the burden of cervical cancer over the past four years. KMIO, one of the busiest cancer treatment centres in Bengaluru, has recorded a steady fall in the proportion of cervical cancer cases among all female cancers.

Dr T. Naveen, Director of KMIO, said the percentage share of cervical cancer dropped from 19.3% in 2021 to 16.2% in 2025. According to the KMIO Hospital-Based Cancer Registry, 1,076 cervical cancer cases were recorded in 2024 out of a total of 7,023 cancer cases in women. In 2025, the number declined to 929 cases among 5,742 female cancer patients.

While treatment in some 2025 cases is still ongoing and final outcomes are yet to be fully documented, experts say the overall trend aligns with long-term population-based registry data showing a decline in cervical cancer burden. Dr Naveen attributed this improvement to

several government-led initiatives focused on female education, maternal and child health, family planning, and women's empowerment. These measures have contributed to a higher age at marriage and first pregnancy, along with reduced parity, all of which lower the risk of persistent Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection — the primary cause of cervical cancer.

However, oncologists cautioned against complacency, pointing out that cervical cancer screening coverage in India remains extremely low. Less than 2% of women undergo regular screening, leaving a significant gap in early detection. Doctors practising in private healthcare settings also noted fluctuations in cervical cancer trends across the country.

Dr Shruthi Shivdas, Consultant in Gynaecological Oncology at Cytecare Hospitals, said that while age-standardised incidence and mortality rates for cervical cancer have declined in India, the absolute number of new cases and deaths continues to rise. "Absolute numbers cannot be interpreted in isolation. India's population is growing, women are living longer, and reporting has improved due to increased screening and the expansion of cancer registries," she said.

Globally, cervical cancer is typically diagnosed between 35 and 65 years of age. In India, however, delayed diagnosis remains common due to low awareness, highlighting the urgent need to scale up screening and HPV vaccination programmes nationwide.

Woman, 8-Yr-Old on Way to School Mowed Down by Bus

BENGALURU

A routine morning walk to school turned tragic in Vivek Nagar on Monday when a woman and her eight-year-old son were killed after being run over by a college bus near the Vivek Nagar bus stop on Srinivagilu Main Road.

The deceased have been identified as Sangeetha (37) and her son Partha. According to police, the accident occurred between 6.45 am and 6.50 am as Sangeetha was walking her son to school. While the duo were crossing the road, a bus belonging to Jain (Deemed-to-be) University's Global Campus in Kanakapura struck them, leaving both with fatal injuries. They died on the spot.

Ashok Nagar traffic police rushed to the scene soon after receiving an alert. The bus driver abandoned the vehicle and fled immediately after the accident. Police suspect the driver panicked and escaped fearing backlash from local residents who began gathering at the spot. A search has been launched to trace and apprehend him.

A senior police officer said the bus was ferrying lecturers and teaching staff at the time of the incident. Preliminary investigations suggest that the driver was attempting a U-turn and failed to notice the mother and child crossing the road, resulting in the fatal collision.

An eyewitness, Teressa, who lives in a makeshift shed along the footpath, said she saw Sangeetha and Partha crossing the road moments before the bus hit them. "The impact was severe. They both collapsed and did not move. The driver ran away before people could assemble," she said, adding that the mother followed the same routine every morning, taking her son to school at around the same time.

DL Cancellation Even for Speeding: ACP Nikitha

BENGALURU

Emphasising that driving demands patience, discipline and sustained concentration, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Nikitha of the Vijayanagara Traffic Division warned that even offences such as speeding could lead to cancellation of driving licences under amended traffic laws.

She was speaking after inaugurating the Sadak Suraksha Jeevan Raksha programme organised by LV Travels in association with the State Transport Department as part of Road Safety Week. ACP Nikitha said

many potential accidents could be prevented if motorists strictly adhered to traffic rules. "Driving is a serious responsibility. A moment's negligence can cost lives," she noted.

Referring to recent enforcement measures, she said cases were being registered against drunk drivers and their licences cancelled. Under the amended Motor Vehicles Act, licences can also be cancelled for signal jumping, using mobile phones while driving, and over-speeding. "These violations are no longer treated lightly," she added.

Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Praveen highlighted the gravity of road safety issues, stating that over 4.80 lakh accident cases were registered across the country in 2023, resulting in 1,72,890 deaths. Haste, carelessness and violation of traffic rules were the primary causes of road accidents, he said.

Get Ready for Local Body Polls: Mukhyamantri Chandru

BENGALURU

With elections to local bodies scheduled in Karnataka in 2026, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers must gear up and intensify their fight to keep corruption out of governance, said Mukhyamantri Chandru, president of the party's state unit.

Addressing the party's state executive meeting, Chandru said elections to municipal corporations, district and taluk panchayats, and other urban local bodies had not been conducted on time. He alleged that the Congress, BJP and JD(S), which have ruled the state at different times, had dealt a severe blow to the constitutional principle of decentralisation. "Political power should reach the hands of honest people," he said.

Chandru noted that ordinary citizens were increasingly reluctant to enter politics, creating a serious challenge for democracy. In this context, he said, the Aam Aadmi Party had created an environment that encouraged honest and committed individuals to step into electoral politics. "AAP offers a platform for clean politics and an opportunity to protect democratic values," he added.

National Organising Secretary Prithvi Reddy said the AAP had grown strongly in states such as Uttar Pradesh, Goa and Gujarat, and was now focusing on strengthening its organisational base in Karnataka.

Canara Bank Defrauded of ₹3 Cr; Police Hunt Absconding Branch Manager

BENGALURU

The police have constituted a special team to trace senior bank manager N. Raghu, who allegedly fled after defrauding Canara Bank's Malleshwaram branch of ₹3.11 crore by sanctioning fictitious gold loans.

A case has been registered based on a complaint filed by Kabindra Kumar Sahu, Assistant General Manager, Regional Office, Canara Bank. According to the police, Raghu went missing soon after the fraud came to light during an internal audit.

Investigations revealed that the accused had allegedly taken gold loans in the names of more than 40 customers and transferred the sanctioned amounts to his own account. Police said Raghu gained the trust of customers by citing personal problems and convincing them to allow loans to be taken in their names. He reportedly claimed that he would mortgage his own gold to avail the loans. Believing him, customers shared their bank account details, Aadhaar cards and OTPs.

PROTECTING GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

90,000 Government Plots Flagged as Encroached in 2 Yrs

BENGALURU

In a major technology-driven effort to safeguard public land, the Revenue Department has verified over 13.9 lakh government land parcels across Karnataka under the Land Beat digital surveillance programme over the past two years, flagging encroachments on around 90,000 plots.

Launched to strengthen monitoring and prevent misuse of state assets, the initiative gathered significant momentum in 2024. Verification numbers rose sharply from just 27,380 parcels in March 2024 to over 10.7 lakh by July, crossing the 13-lakh mark by September. As of December 24, 2025, a total of 13,94,519 land parcels had been physically verified.

Officials said that while about 90,000 plots were clearly marked as encroached, a much larger number showed varying degrees of intrusion and irregularities, necessitating further surveys and classification. The findings, they said, highlight the scale of the

challenge and the urgent need for a system-driven overhaul of land governance, which directly impacts livelihoods, family assets, and public infrastructure.

Under the Land Beat programme, village accountants and Village Administrative Officers (VAOs) carried out on-ground verification using geo-fenced mobile applications. The app required officers to physically visit each parcel, walk its boundaries, and upload photographs and short videos. Data entry from offices was blocked, ensuring that verification was conducted strictly on the field.

Rajendra Kumar Kataria, Principal Secretary, Revenue Department, said the system was designed to introduce discipline through digital checks and balances, reducing discretion in routine processes that earlier depended heavily on manual intervention. "Previously, due to work pressure and multiple responsibilities, many officers lost track of monitoring these lands. That is one of the reasons for bringing in this system," he said.

The department clarified that the exercise was not aimed at revenue collection but focused on land resource management.

QUICK READ

HDK congratulates Bigg Boss Kannada Season 12 winner

Bengaluru

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Monday congratulated Ghilli Nataraj on winning Bigg Boss Kannada Season 12, lauding him as a symbol of genuine rural talent. In a post on X, Kumaraswamy said Nataraj, hailing from Malavalli in Mandya Lok Sabha constituency, scripted an unprecedented victory in the popular reality show. "I wish him, born to a village farmer and who has won the hearts of all Kannadigas, even greater fame and recognition," Kumaraswamy said. He also congratulated Rakshita Shetty, who finished as the first runner-up, and wished both contestants success in their future endeavours.

Priyank Kharge reviews IT, biotech plans ahead of Budget

Bengaluru

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and Information Technology and Biotechnology Minister Priyank Kharge on Monday held a pre-Budget meeting with senior officials of the Information and Biotechnology Department to review proposals for the 2026–27 Budget. Emphasising the sector's global standing, the Minister directed officials to include more new and innovative projects in the forthcoming Budget. He said focused investments were needed to sustain growth and strengthen Karnataka's leadership in technology and innovation. Information Technology Secretary Dr N. Manjula, Department Managing Director Rahal Sharanappa Sankanur and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Namma Metro's Yellow Line Receives 8th Train, Frequency to Improve

Bengaluru

The Namma Metro has received its eighth driverless train set for the yellow line, which arrived at the Hebbagodi depot on Monday morning. The six-coach train was transported from Titagarh, Kolkata, on January 10. Testing of the new train will begin from Tuesday. Currently, the yellow line, spanning 19.15 km from R V Road to Bommansandra with 16 stations, operates seven trains with a 10-minute frequency. With the eighth train, frequency is expected to improve to 8–10 minutes once commercial operations start, easing commuter wait times significantly.

Reddy questions CM's reluctance to hand Ballari case to CBI

BJP MLA accuses Chief Minister of shielding culprits, demands impartial probe into violence

BENGALURU

BJP MLA G. Janardhana Reddy on Monday questioned Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's reluctance to hand over the Ballari violence case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), alleging selective use of investigative agencies and political double standards.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP office, Reddy said Siddaramaiah had earlier handed over seven cases to the CBI to project himself as honest and committed to the rule of law. "If that is so, why is such a 'great man' hesitating to give the Ballari case to the CBI?" he asked.

Launching a sharp attack on the Chief Minister, Reddy said invoking the name of Valmiki Maharishi had brought no real benefit to the concerned community. "You have done nothing for that community by invoking Valmiki's name. But how many more people will you kill in the name of Valmiki?" he lashed out.

Reddy alleged that the Congress leadership was aware of the involvement of one of its MLAs in the case but was attempting to limit the fallout by arresting only private gunmen and handing the probe to the CID. "This has already embarrassed the Congress party. Instead of arresting those truly responsible, only three private gunmen have been taken into custody. This exposes your intention of shielding MLAs," he charged.

Referring to the Ballari incident, Reddy claimed that a mob of 5,000 to 6,000 people attacked his residence, hurled petrol bombs and opened fire, leading to the death of an innocent person. "This was nothing short of an attempt to murder me," he said, insisting that only a CBI investigation would bring out the truth.

He said the BJP State core committee had unanimously passed a resolution demanding a CBI probe into the Ballari case. Similar demands were raised during a protest meeting held in Ballari, he added.

Reddy dismissed arguments comparing the number of cases handed over to the CBI by different governments. "It does not matter how many cases were given during Yediyurappa's tenure or Siddaramaiah's tenure. What matters is justice in this particular case," he said.

The MLA urged the Chief Minister to explain to the people of Karnataka why the Ballari case was being treated differently and warned that continued hesitation would only strengthen suspicions of political interference.

B'luru Police's 'Safe City' Project Ensures Swift Rescue of Missing Children

BENGALURU

Bengaluru Police, under the Safe City project, has successfully conducted multiple technology-based rapid response operations, reuniting missing and separated children with their families within minutes. The initiative integrates the city's 112 emergency helpline, police control rooms, and GPS-enabled Hoysala patrol vehicles to ensure swift intervention.

In one instance on December 27, a mentally ill woman attempted to take a two-year-old child in J.P. Nagar. An alert assistant sub-inspector contacted the police helpline, and within five minutes, Hoysala patrol personnel rescued the child and returned him safely to his mother. On the same night, a 16-year-old mentally challenged boy who had gone missing in Chamarajpet was quickly located and reunited with his mother.

A senior police officer noted that in all these cases, children were rescued and returned within 20 minutes. "This underscores the critical role of technology-based policing under the Safe City project and its effectiveness in safeguarding children," the officer said. The initiative not only highlights the proactive approach of Bengaluru Police but also serves as a model for urban child safety programs, combining technology, rapid coordination, and trained personnel to protect children in distress.

Similar rapid responses were reported on January 3, when a 4-year-old was found alone near Sanjeevini Nagar in Hegganahalli under Rajagopalanagara police station limits; police reached within 11 minutes and returned the child to the parents. On January 4, two children spotted running on a road in Nagundalli under Kadugodi police station were rescued in 17 minutes. On January 14, a child spotted near Hosakerahalli flyover under Girinagar police station was rescued and returned to parents within just four minutes.

The Safe City project demonstrates the effectiveness of technology-enabled policing in protecting vulnerable children and ensuring public safety. By combining real-time surveillance, rapid dispatch, and coordinated ground response, Bengaluru Police has minimized response times and improved community trust.

Harassment in School Accreditation: Madhu Bangarappa Promises Action

BENGALURU

School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa warned that harassment of private school administrators during the accreditation renewal process would not be tolerated and that strict action would be taken against erring officials. He made the remarks while addressing the state-level educational conference 'Vision-Mission' at Palace Grounds, organized in collaboration with private school bodies like CAMS and various management boards.

The Minister, honoured with the title 'Shikshan Bangara' for his reforms in the department, said the renewal process, which previously required submission of over 60 documents, had been reduced to 30 under the current government. He added that further simplification is planned, following recommendations from a House committee formed in Belgaum.

Highlighting ongoing complaints of official harassment, Bangarappa said such behaviour would be addressed promptly without hesitation. He also instructed officials to explore the request from private school bodies to provide two types of mathematics question papers for students, similar to the CBSE model—easy and advanced—based on learning ability.

Several dignitaries attended the conference, including MLCs Puttanna, DT Srinivas, Ramoji Gowda, Acting President of the Education Council of India NP Singh, State Primary School Teachers' Association President Chandrasekhara Nuggali, CAMS General Secretary Shasikumar, and former High School Teachers' Association President Manjunath.

Bangarappa reiterated that the government is committed to protecting private schools from unnecessary interference and ensuring a transparent, efficient, and student-friendly accreditation system.

Lalbagh Set for Major Renovation, ₹10 Cr Proposal Submitted to GBA

BENGALURU

The Horticulture Department has submitted a proposal to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) seeking a grant of Rs 10 crore for the renovation and development of Lalbagh Botanical Garden. The comprehensive plan includes repair of walkways and pavements, asphalting of main roads, redevelopment of the band stand, and revamping the rose garden at the Vegetable Garden Lalbagh Park.

Officials noted that many walkways, unrepaired for decades, have deteriorated, forming potholes and uneven surfaces, causing hazards for walkers, tourists, and visitors—especially during the rainy season when the paths become slippery. The department has also proposed an 8 km walking path and a separate jogging track along the lake, alongside development of footpaths and asphalting of a 6.5 km road.

During the Bangalore Walk programme, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar assured that the GBA would provide a Rs 10 crore grant for Lalbagh's development. "A comprehensive plan has been prepared, and the proposal has been submitted," officials said.

The iconic band stand, located in front of the Glass House, has developed cracks due to rainwater seepage. Originally built by the British in 1860 and rebuilt in 2000 with teak wood, the structure will now be reconstructed at an estimated cost of Rs 4 crore using modern technology, with guidance from the Bengaluru Forest Science Research Institute and heritage experts to preserve its aesthetic appeal.

Additional improvements include introducing new plant species, installing three clean drinking water units, providing shelters for rain protection, adding grills within the compound, and upgrading electrical infrastructure.

BMTC Employees Demand Release of 38-Month Pending Salaries

BENGALURU

BMTC staff have urged the government to release pending salary arrears of 38 months and funds for the Shakti scheme. Dr M R Venkatesh, former vice-president of the BMTC employees' union, wrote to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah highlighting the financial strain on transport employees and the corporation. The union has warned of a strike and a 'Bengaluru Chalo' protest on January 29 if the demands are not addressed. Despite the pending issues, BMTC services were largely unaffected, officials said, while employees continue to press for immediate resolution and release of the long-pending payments.

Residents Struggle with Daily Traffic Chaos on Residency Road

BENGALURU

Commuters on Residency Road and JC Road continue to face severe traffic congestion, particularly during peak hours, due to widespread parking violations and the sheer volume of vehicles on these key city arteries. Despite recent white-topping work between Aashirvadam Junction and Brigade Road, the traffic woes remain largely unresolved.

Residency Road sees heavy movement from 7.30 am to 11 am, 2 pm to 4 pm, and after 6 pm, primarily due to the vehicles of schools and colleges lining the route. More than 50 educational institutions, including Bishop Cotton Boys and Girls School, National Public School, St Joseph Indian High School, and Baldwin International, contribute to the morning and afternoon traffic surges, forcing vehicles to move at a snail's pace. Two-wheelers often ride on footpaths to bypass congestion, creating additional safety hazards.

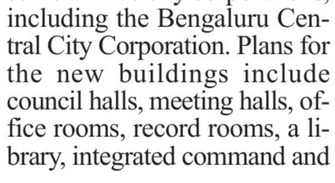
The road also serves as a major connector, with vehicles merging from Mission Road, Kengal Hanumanthaiah Road, and Rajaram Mohan Roy Road, while hosting important landmarks such as Janardhan Tower, The Chancery Pavilion, The Ritz Carlton Hotel, and Prestige.com multi-storey building.

GBA Launches 3rd Tender for Modern City Corporation Offices

BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has floated tenders for the third time to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for new city corporation offices across Bengaluru, aiming to replace ageing and converted zonal offices with modern, eco-friendly administrative buildings.

The proposed offices, each with a minimum built-up area of 75,000 square feet, will serve all five city corporations, including the Bengaluru Central City Corporation. Plans for the new buildings include council halls, meeting halls, office rooms, record rooms, a library, integrated command and control centres, cafeterias, and ample parking facilities.



Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE), GBA's special purpose vehicle for infrastructure projects, has issued tenders worth Rs 3 crore for preparing the DPR. Officials said the buildings are envisioned as blue-green structures with unique architectural themes, aimed at reducing energy and water consumption. The specialised sustainability features are believed to have deterred bidders during the previous two tender rounds.

A review committee led by B-SMILE's Managing Director, along with commissioners of the four other city corporations, the special commissioner (finance), the engineer-in-chief, and senior officials, will evaluate and approve the designs. Once a consultant is appointed, the DPR is expected within 60 days.

Mahayogi Vemana Forefront in Social Upliftment: Ramalinga Reddy

BENGALURU

Minister Ramalinga Reddy said Mahayogi Vemana stands among the foremost philosophers and saints who worked for the upliftment of society through simple yet profound words and hymns. He was speaking at the inauguration of the 614th Jayanti programme of Mahayogi Vemana organized by Taluk Reddy Jana Sangh at Hoskote Taluk office premises. Drawing parallels with Basavanna, Kanakadasa, and Purandaradasa, the Minister noted that Vemana broke the shackles of the caste system and promoted social equality through his simple, thought-provoking verses. "We, as human beings, should read, understand, and follow Vemana's teachings to bring social reform," he said. He added that the government has institutionalized Vemana Jayanti at the state level, and credited Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for celebrating over 25 of the state's eminent personalities every year. MLA Sharath Bachegowda announced plans to allocate at least 20 guntas of land in Anugondanahalli hobli for constructing a building, while identifying a suitable site in the city for installing a statue of Vemana.

TRADITION ENCOURAGED

Suggie-Huggi Fest Brings Folk Arts, Food, Rural Games to City

BENGALURU

The two-day Sankranti celebration, Suggie-Huggi, organized by Congress workers of Byatarayanapura constituency and the KBG Swayamsevak Sangh under Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, drew large crowds eager to experience Karnataka's rural culture. The festival featured folk arts performances, Rashipuja rituals, a food fair, sheep and cattle exhibitions, colorful rangoli, kite flying, bullock cart rides, and various rural sports.

Children participated in kabaddi, tug-of-war, pot-throwing, rangoli, and painting competitions, while displays of houses made from sugarcane and rice husks, along with jaggery sticks shaped creatively, attracted visitors. Over 30 teams performed folk dances and music, while traditional treats like sesame-jaggery, cashews, yams, and sweet and savory Pongal were distributed among attendees.

An exhibition of more than 80 stalls showcased village delicacies, household items, clothes, cereals, clay pots, POP dolls, artificial jewelry, snacks, and organic products, allowing families to shop while enjoying the festivities.

> **The Suggie-Huggi festival aims to preserve original folk arts and culture, worship the earth and nature, and pass these traditions on to future generations.**
> —Krishna Byre Gowda, Minister

Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said the Suggie-Huggi festival aims to preserve original folk arts and culture, worship the earth and nature, and pass these traditions on to future generations.

Social activist Meenakshi Krishna Byregowda, Congress leader NN Srinivasaiah, M Jayagopalagowda, NK Mahesh Kumar, PV Manjunathbabu, VV Parthibarajan, V Hari, RM Srinivas, HA Shivakumar, K Gourish, P Rahul, Uttana Halli Jayakumar, and Hanumanti were among those present.

QUICK READ

Woman dies after falling into rice mill

Shirva

A tragic accident claimed the life of a woman in Bantakallu Sadambailu near Shirva. Rohini Pushpalatha, 53, slipped and fell into boiling water at a rice mill while removing paddy husks. The incident happened on December 24 at the mill located at her husband's house. She suffered severe burn injuries and was rushed to Manipal Hospital. Sadly, she died on late Sunday evening without responding to treatment. Following the incident, Bagga Shirva police registered a case and began an investigation. Locals expressed grief and urged better safety measures at workplaces to protect workers and prevent such accidents in future there.

Three booked for assault in caste abuse case

Kadaba

A case has been filed against three men for allegedly abusing and assaulting a customer at Surabhi Bar and Restaurant in Kalara village. The victim, Jagadish, 28, of Paltadu village, on Monday police told that on January 16, between 10:00 and 10:30 pm, he was attacked near the cash counter after finishing his meal. The accused—Ajay, Baby, and Anil—allegedly used caste-based insults, hit him on the cheek, head, shoulder, and back, and threatened him. Kadaba Police have registered a case under relevant assault and SC/ST atrocity laws, and the investigation is ongoing to bring the offenders to justice.

RB Timmapur denies bribe audio allegations

Timmapur will seek the Chief Minister's permission to take legal action, consult experts, and defend his innocence

BAGALKOT

Excise Minister R.B. Timmapur said he has done nothing wrong and claimed that a big conspiracy is being made against him after an audio clip went viral. The audio allegedly suggests that bribes were demanded to issue CL-7 liquor licences in the Excise Department. Speaking to the media, Timmapur said the clip is being used to "kill his image" and damage his political career.

"What wrong have I done? Did I ask for money from anyone?" Timmapur asked. He said he is ready to fight the matter legally and will not be scared by false accusation. He also questioned why his son's name was dragged into the issue. "Why is my son being targeted? Whose names are really there in the audio? This is all part of a planned attack," he said.

Timmapur said he will seek permission from the Chief Minister to take legal action. "My work of Tejovadhe is going on, but I will not stop.

I will take advice from legal experts and fight this case in court. I have not done anything wrong," he said.

He added that till now the Chief Minister has not questioned him about the issue. "The Chief Minister has not asked me anything. I have not asked for any bribe. I have not committed any mistake," he said firmly.

The audio clip has created a stir in political circles and has become a major talking point in the state. Opposition leaders have demanded a fair probe, while Timmapur says the truth will come out soon.

He appealed to people to wait for the facts and not believe rumours. "I have faith in the law. Justice will be done, and my name will be cleared," he said, ending his statement.

The zoo has about 170 spotted deer, all closely monitored. Officials are protecting them, sending samples for testing, and providing ongoing treatment, a forest officer said

Four spotted deer die at Indira Priyadarshini Zoo

DAVANAGERE

Four spotted deer have died mysteriously at the Indira Priyadarshini Zoo near Anagodu village, creating concern among forest officials and visitors.

The deaths happened over the last three days, and doctors believe an infectious disease may be the reason.

Veterinary experts said the animals may have been affected by hemorrhagic septicemia, a dangerous disease that spreads quickly among cattle and wild animals. After the deaths, the Forest Department rushed doctors to the zoo to check all the animals and begin preventive treatment. Medicines and vaccines are being given to stop the disease from spreading to other deer.

There are about 170 spotted deer in the zoo, and officials said all of them are being closely watched. "We are taking every step to protect the animals. Samples have been sent for testing, and treatment is going on," a forest officer said.

To keep the situation under control, the zoo has temporarily restricted public entry. Visitors are not being allowed near the deer enclosure until the health check is completed. Officials said this step is needed to avoid stress to the animals and reduce the risk of infection.

Local residents and animal lovers have expressed worry over the sudden deaths and have asked the department to act quickly. The Forest Department assured that they will do everything possible to save the remaining deer and promised full support.

Channabasappa said the hurriedly called session suggests Siddaramaiah's last as Chief Minister, with a new leader likely soon

MLA Channabasappa hints at Chief Minister's farewell

SHIVAMOGGA

Shivamogga Nagar MLA S.N. Channabasappa said the Assembly session starting on January 22 may be the last session for Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Speaking to the media at his office, he made a sharp and sarcastic comment, saying this session looks like a farewell session for the Chief Minister.

Channabasappa said the government is calling the session in great hurry, and this shows that a change of leadership may be coming soon. "Looking at the way this session is being called, I feel this will be Siddaramaiah's last session as Chief Minister. A new Chief Minister may take charge after this," he said.

He added that whoever becomes the next Chief Minister should focus on development. "For the last two and a half years, development in the state has come to a standstill. People want roads, jobs, water and good schools. The next Chief Minister must work for real progress," he said.

Channabasappa also said this is not a budget session, and he believes the new Chief Minister will hold a budget session later. "This shows that a big change is coming in Karnataka politics," he added.

Talking about the VB Ram Ji Scheme, he said the Congress party's protest will not help them. "The Central Government has brought this scheme for local body elections. Protesting against it will not benefit Congress," he said. He said the BJP is fully ready for the upcoming local body elections and is confident of winning. "Recent results in Maharashtra show that people trust BJP. Even in Karnataka, BJP will win because people want good work and honest leadership," Channabasappa said.

He added that BJP leaders are united and ready to serve the people. "There is no doubt that BJP will grow stronger in the state. People are tired of empty promises and want real change," he said.

Channabasappa ended by saying that the coming days will be very important for Karnataka politics, and people will soon see a new chapter begin with fresh leadership and a strong focus on development.

Man dies after attending Paryaya Festival

UDUPI

A 47-year-old man died while sleeping at his house in Manipal. The deceased was identified as Shashidhar, a resident of Karamballi Santosh Nagar. He had attended the Paryaya Mahotsav on the night of January seventeen and returned home early morning around five forty-five.

Shashidhar, who suffered from high blood pressure, went to sleep soon after returning. When family members tried to wake him, he showed no response.

He was rushed to hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Manipal police have registered a case. Further investigation is underway by local authorities.

Stolen bolero crashes police vehicle, driver escapes

KANAKAGIRI

A stolen Bolero pickup vehicle rammed into a police emergency vehicle and fled from the spot during a late night incident near Huli Hyderabad village, police said.

According to police, the theft was reported earlier to the Koppal control room after unknown persons stole the Bolero and drove towards Tavaragera via Kanakagiri. Emergency response staff on the Tavaragera-Kanakagiri road were alerted and asked to stop the vehicle.

While on patrol, the police spotted the suspect vehicle near the cemetery road of Hulihaidar village.

They signaled the driver to stop the vehicle safely on the left side of the road. However, the driver, suspected to be the thief, suddenly crashed the Bolero into the 112 emergency vehicle and escaped, risking lives and damaging public property.

The impact caused severe damage to the police vehicle, including the bonnet, mudguard, fog light, and left headlight.

CM Inaugurates Sangolli Rayanna Museum, Unveils Statue

KHANAPUR

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah visited Nandagad in Khanapur taluk, the place where revolutionary hero Sangolli Rayanna was hanged, and inaugurated the Rayanna Museum at the Veerabhoomi as well as the statue of Rayanna. On this occasion, admirers of Rayanna expressed their devotion by applying sacred ash (vibhuti) on the Chief Minister's forehead.

Later, he spoke after inaugurating several developmental projects. The event was held in the divine presence of Jagadguru Niranjananandapuri Swamiji of Kaginele Mahasansthana Kanaka Gurupitha. Ministers Satish Jarakiholi, Lakshmi Hebbalkar, Shivaraj Tangadagi, Byrathi Suresh, Chairman of the Guarantee Implementation Committee and former minister H. M. Revanna, along with all the MLAs of the district, Members of the Legislative Council, local leaders, and a large number of Rayanna's admirers were present at the program.

Education Min Madhu Bangarappa honored with Shikshan Bangara

SHIVAMOGGA

Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa was honoured with the title "Shikshan Bangara Madhu Bangarappa" at a state level education conference held at Palace Grounds in Bengaluru. The programme was organised by the Karnataka State Government Senior and Non Graduate Primary School Headmasters' Association along with several education groups. Teachers and leaders praised her for her work to improve government schools and make learning easier for children.

Speakers recalled how her father, former Chief Minister S. Bangarappa, believed that education alone could change poor families. He once started a one rupee a day scheme so that children would stay in school instead of working with their parents. Thirty years later, his daughter is leading the School Education and Literacy Department with the same spirit, they said.

Under Madhu Bangarappa, many friendly reforms were introduced. Karnataka Public Schools were opened in rural areas so that village children can get quality education close to home. A three exam system was brought in to reduce stress. Webcasting was started in exam centres to keep exams fair and transparent. The pass marks for SSLC and PUC were reduced from 35 to 33 percent to help more students move ahead.

She has also focused on good food, clean classrooms and basic facilities for children from poor, backward and minority families. While receiving the honour, Madhu Bangarappa said the process to renew private school recognition has been made simple and will be made even easier. She promised that her department will continue to work for students, teachers and parents with care and commitment. Leaders present said her efforts are shaping a brighter future today.

Lakkundi Workers Seek Fair Wages During Excavation

GADAG

Labourers working at the historic Lakkundi excavation site stopped work on Monday morning to demand a fair wage.

The workers said they are being paid only Rs 374 under the employment guarantee scheme, even though they work long hours in the hot sun. Because of the protest, the excavation that was to begin at 8 am started late.

The labourers said the present wage is too low for the hard work they do every day. "We work nearly ten hours, digging and lifting heavy soil, but we are paid for only four hours. This is not fair," a worker said. They demanded a minimum wage of Rs 600 per day so that they can support their families.

Many women workers also joined the protest. They said that in other daily wage jobs, they earn between Rs 500 and Rs 600 in much less time. "Here we work longer, but we get less money. If the wages are not increased, we will not continue the work," another worker said.

Officials from the Archaeological Department spoke to the labourers and promised to take their demand to senior officers. After this assurance, the workers agreed to resume the excavation.

The excavation began after a gold treasure was found recently in Lakkundi village. About 466 grams of gold ornaments and some copper items were handed over to the government. Experts believe the treasure is nearly 300 years old.

Absconding accused held in extortion case

MANGALURU

The Mangaluru East Police Station's warrant enforcement team arrested Naveen Sequera (52), a resident of Thokkottu Chambugudde, Permannur Post, who had been absconding after a long-pending extortion case verdict.

Naveen was originally charged under Section 392 IPC in 2011-12 (Crime No. 195/2011). In 2015, the court found him guilty and sentenced him to three years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of Rs. 5,000. Naveen had later filed a criminal writ petition in the High Court challenging the verdict.

The High Court reduced his sentence to one year of simple imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 15,000, ordering him to serve it by 2022. When he failed to appear, the court reverted to the original District Court order of three years' rigorous imprisonment.

After the latest verdict, Naveen absconded, prompting the court to issue an arrest warrant. Acting on credible information, ASI Machendranath Jogi, Head Constable Abhishek, and H.C. Narappa KB located Naveen at a bar in Honnakatte, Surathkal, on January 14 and took him into custody.

He was immediately produced before the court, which confirmed the earlier sentence of three years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 5,000. Police said the arrest demonstrates their commitment to enforcing court orders and ensuring accountability for past crimes.

The case has attracted public attention due to the long gap between the crime, verdict, and eventual arrest.

ART BEYOND WORDS

Society must lead efforts to save art

SHIVAMOGGA

Art is the true language of India and religion, and it cannot be explained fully through words, said Member of Parliament Yaduveera Krishnadatta Chamaraja of the Mysore royal family. He spoke during the 25th Year Aradhanatsava Veena Trishatotsava programme organised by Saraswati Sangeet Vidyalaya at Allama Prabhu Maidan.

He said society must become the main driving force to protect and promote art. He also expressed hope that the music school would grow into a university in the future. Encouraging the younger generation to develop interest in music is a positive step, he added. He noted that Shivamogga has played an important role in strengthening the cultural heritage of the Mysore region.

MP B.Y. Raghavendra recalled that Allama Prabhu Maidan earlier belonged to the police department. He said former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa transferred it for public use within twenty-four hours, making it a center for cultural events today.

Veena artist Revathi Kamath said the veena helps stimulate the brain and brings harmony, adding that music carries deep science within it.

A total of 301 veenas were played together on one stage, creating history in Shivamogga. Artists and patrons were honoured with Rajatashree awards during the memorable event. The gathering celebrated tradition, unity, pride.

Minister urges daily millets for better health

The Min said elders' simple diets gave strength, warned fast food harms youth, and urged teaching healthy eating early

DEVANAHALLI

Today's fast life is harming health, said District In-charge Minister K.H. Muniyappa. He asked people to return to traditional grains for a strong and balanced life. He flagged off the district-level grain walk at Devanahalli Town Stadium, organised by the District Agriculture Department. He said daily food should include navane, sajje, uddu, ragi and jolada. These simple grains can protect the body and mind.

The Minister said our elders lived long and healthy lives because they worked in fields, ate grains and fruits, and followed a simple diet. "Their food gave them strength and immunity," he said. He warned that fast food is causing diabetes, heart disease and obesity among youth. He asked parents to teach children good food habits from an early age.

He suggested that during birthdays, children should be given ragi balls, milk and grain snacks instead of cakes and soft drinks. "This will improve immunity and keep children active," he said. He added that awareness about millets must reach every home.

He said the central and state governments are giving special support to millet farmers and are promoting health-friendly crops. Farmers who grow traditional grains are being encouraged through schemes and training.

A colourful grain awareness walk was held from Devanahalli Town Stadium through the main roads. School and college students, farmers and citizens joined the walk with placards and slogans on healthy eating.

District Guarantee Scheme Implementation Committee Chairman B. Rajanna, Taluk President C. Jagannath, Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary Shivakumar, Joint Director of Agriculture Kalavathi, Assistant Director Shashilamma, KPCC member Chinnappa, Tahsildar Anil Kumar, District Farmers' Society President S. Ravikumar and many officials were present.

DC Prabhu calls for sports growth

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Prabhu said the district lacks stadiums and sports facilities, urging all groups to submit requests to the Youth Empowerment and Sports Department within two days

Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu said sports have the power to unite people beyond caste, religion, language and region, and called for strong steps to promote sports activities across the district. He spoke at a meeting with heads of non government sports bodies, coaches and athletes at the District Collector's office, where he listened to their ideas and assured full support.

Prabhu said the district lacks proper stadiums for football, kho kho and other major games. He added that facilities for volleyball, basketball, kabaddi, throwball and athletics are also not enough in the district and taluk centres. He asked all sports groups to submit a written note to the Assistant Director of the Youth Empowerment and Sports Department within two days, explaining what support they need to grow sports.

He said the administration is ready to give grants for sports equipment, coaches and training. "If we get clear details about your needs, space and funds, we will take quick action. If funds fall short, we will try to bring support through CSR," he said, urging everyone to work together.

The Deputy Commissioner said Rs 10 crore has been set aside for the district stadium, Rs 9.25 crore for Chintamani city stadium and Rs 7 crore for a cricket stadium in Chintamani. He asked officials to plan temporary facilities during construction and ensure that every rupee is used properly. He warned that delays will not be tolerated and directed the Sports Department to collect complaints and demands and send files quickly for approval. Assistant Director Jayalakshmi, coaches and players attended the meeting.

District honors Mahayogi Vemana on birth anniversary

CHIKKABALLAPUR

The District Administration of Chikkaballapur celebrated the "Mahayogi Vemana Jayanti" at the District Collector's Office auditorium on Monday, emphasizing the ideals and social teachings of the 15th-century poet Vemana.

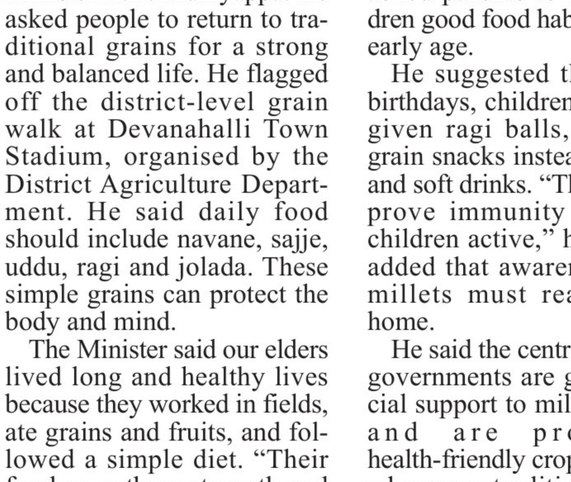
Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. N. Bhaskar paid floral tributes to Vemana's portrait and said society can improve if everyone follows the principles taught by the great poet. Vemana's vachanas, written in simple language for the common people, addressed social issues, opposed caste discrimination, and encouraged equality. The government celebrates his birth anniversary to convey his values to the present and future generations.

Retired teacher N. Ratnavarma highlighted that Vemana, like Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar, used his poetry to raise awareness about social evils and inequalities. His works, composed centuries ago, remain relevant and have been preserved, translated into English, and popularized internationally.

During the program, students and community achievers were felicitated for their contributions. Officials from various departments, including Muniraju, Assistant Secretary of the Zilla Panchayat, Joint Director Nagaraj Kannimani, Assistant Director D.M. Ravikumar, and community leaders Papanna Reddy, Anjan Reddy, Ravindra Reddy, Sri Rama Reddy, and Shivarama Reddy, attended the event.

The celebration also emphasized the importance of understanding Vemana's poems to correct societal inconsistencies, promote social reform, and continue the legacy of awareness among future generations. The program highlighted how the poet's life and writings remain an enduring guide for morality, equality, and community service.

CM VISITS HISTORIC TEMPLE



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah visited the historic Shri Banashankari Temple in Badami on Monday and offered prayers. Ministers Timmappur, Shivaraj Tangadagi, Bairathi Suresh, and MLA Bhimasen Chimmankatti were present.

Dr Girish Warns Against Child Marriage

CHITRADURGA

Parents should not ruin their children's future by marrying them early, said Dr B.V. Girish, Taluk Health Officer of Chitradurga. He was speaking to mothers at the Anganwadi Centre in Piccharahatti Sultanipura village under Yalagodu Primary Health Centre on Monday. Dr Girish said child marriage is a punishable offence and poses serious risks to both girls and boys. He urged people to report cases of child marriage by calling the child helpline 1098, assuring that the caller's identity would remain confidential. He reminded parents that the legal age for marriage is 18 years for girls and 21 years for boys, and violators can face imprisonment and fines. District Health Education Officer Krishna Nayak highlighted the health risks of early marriage, including anaemia, complications during childbirth, and weak newborns. Taluk Health Education Officer B. Moogappa said early marriage deprives girls of education and a healthy childhood, noting that four child pregnancies were reported in the village last year. Health staff, ASHA workers, village elders, pregnant women, and over 45 mothers participated in the programme.

Balagangadharanatha Swamiji's contribution is unparalleled: C. Umesh

RAMANAGARA

The contributions made by Dr. Balagangadharanatha Swamiji in the fields of religion, education, and healthcare continue to inspire everyone, said C. Umesh, President of the BGS Seva Samiti.

He was speaking at the 13th death anniversary and 81st birth anniversary celebrations of Dr. Balagangadharanatha Swamiji, organized by the BGS Seva Samiti at the BGS Circle in Bidadi town. Born in Bananduru village, Swamiji, through his achievements in religious, educational, and health sectors, introduced Karnataka to the world, Umesh said.

He added that celebrating Swamiji's birth anniversary is a matter of pride and that the event has been meaningfully observed in Bidadi for several years with the support of society, and will continue in the future.

A special pavilion was erected at Swamiji's statue with floral decorations, and puja and garlanding were performed. Several dignitaries, former legislators, local leaders, and members of the BGS Seva Samiti offered floral tributes.

Prasada was distributed to a large number of devotees. Folk singer Shivara Umesh and his team presented devotional songs. A blood donation camp was jointly organized by BGS Seva Samiti, Rotary Bidadi Central, and the Rotary Blood Bank, where many youths voluntarily donated blood. Dignitaries were felicitated during the program.

Bangalore Urban Zilla Panchayat
S.Kariappa Road, Banashankari, Bangalore.
E-mail: cpobangurban@gamil.com
No: BUZP/PLANNING/TENDER/2025-26 Dated: 19.01.2026
Short Term Tender Notification
Tender Ind. No.: 1. RDPR/2025-26/IND 13263
2. RDPR/2025-26/IND 13264
3. RDPR/2025-26/IND 13265
4. RDPR/2025-26/IND 13266
Applications are invited from interested organizations/agencies for the supply and installation of necessary materials related to the Health, Education, Library and Disabled Welfare Department of Bangalore Urban Zilla Panchayat via the e-tender website: **kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Interested suppliers can participate in the tender on **27.01.2026 by 5:00 PM**. The above tender numbers can be downloaded from today. For further information, the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Bangalore Urban Zilla Panchayat, S. Kariappa Road, Banashankari, Bangalore can be contacted during office hours.
Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, Bangalore Urban Zilla Panchayat, Bangalore
DIPR/CP/AAA/5119/2025-26

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangalore - 575 004
Ph: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425
No. E- 278321/E-277759 Date: 05.01.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)
MESCOM invites tender for Manufacture & Supply of following materials:

Tender No	Name of the Material proposed for Procurement	Quantity
MESCOM/2025-26/IND0153	Double Pole Structure-GI	1200 Sets
MESCOM/2025-26/IND0154	LT Protection Kit	9000 No's

The interested eligible bidders may log on to **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **20.01.2026**
DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1428/25-26 dt: 19.01.2026 **Sd/-, Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Procurement)**
For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-22112809
ಸಂ.ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ವಿ)/ಲೋ.ಇ/ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/2515/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.01.2026
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್), ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು **KW-2 STD** ಷರತ್ತುಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಎರಡನೇ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

Sl. No.	Work Indents	Work Value (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT29218/Call-2	42.29 Lakhs

ಮೇಲಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.01.2026 ರಿಂದ 23.01.2026, 12:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಸುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.01.2026 ರಂದೆ 12:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ವಿ).
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಆನಿ-ಸಿ.ಪಿ/5103/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ, ನಜರ್‌ಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು – 10.
(Ph. No: 0821-2979772 E-mail:khsdrp.divmys@gmail.com)
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆಕುಕ/ಇಂ.ವಿ./ಕಾ.ಅ/ಮೈ/ಸಇ–1&2/ಟೆಂಡರ್–4,9,10,14–2,3ನೇ ಕರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್–24/AAM–2025–26 ದಿ:14.01.2026
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಮೈಸೂರು, ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ಹಾಸನ ಮತ್ತು ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯುಷ್ಮಾನ್ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮಂದಿರ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲಾದ ಮೂರನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ 55 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.53.02 ರಿಂದ ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.54.72 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತವೆ. **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳು: 1)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 27.01.2026 ರಂದು 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. **2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್): 28.01.2026 ರಂದು 16.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ (Through KPPP) https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in ದಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. **ಸೂಚನೆ: 1)** ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ / ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. **2)** ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
DIPR/DDMYS/1527/KSMCA/861/2025-26

Executive Engineer
Public Works Department,
No. 1, Buildings Division, SJP Campus, Bengaluru
Ph: 080-22255210
No.: EE/Bld.1/AE-4/2025-26/71 Date: 17.01.2026
Invitation for Tender (IFT)
The above Department invites Tenders through e-procurement portal of GoK **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible Tenderers for Construction of the state-of-the-art facility at Regional Station ICAR-NISST, GKVK Campus, Bengaluru. (PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT31604) Approx. value of work: **Rs. 164.85 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 2,46,900/-** (Rs. 1,00,000/- through e-proc, remaining through BG). Period of Completion: **6 Months (including rainy season).** Cost of Document: As in e-portal. Reservation: **Others.** Last date for downloading Tender through e-procurement portal and submission through online: **27.01.2026 up to 4.30 PM.** Date of opening the Tender: as per e-procurement guidelines. Further information can be obtained from the above office or from e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DD-C.P/5101/KSMCA/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby issued to the General Public that My client Dr. Purushotham Manvi S/o Sriramulu Manvi residing at No. 587 , 1st main Mico Layout, BTM 2nd Stage , Bangalore South -560 076 is the absolute owner of the mentioned schedule property by registered Sale deed vide Doc No. RRN-1-01209-2025-26 DATED 22-05-2025 Registered in Jayanagar (RajaRajeshwari Nagar) Senior Sub Registrar Bangalore. And enjoying the peaceful possession and ownership. He (Dr. Purushotham Manvi) is having Legal tittle and Legal ownership having absolute possession including his name in the revenue documents , on the below mentioned schedule property.
Details of the Schedule property
The schedule property bearing Vacant Site No. 4 (Four) in Khata No. 116, BBMP Khata No. 121/116/52/1/4, formed in Sy No. 52/1, which is converted for residential purpose, vide conversion order No. B.DIS.ALN.CR(S) 26/95-96/B.DIS.ALN(S).SR/162/95-96, dated: 04-09-1996, issued by the Deputy commissioner,Bangalore District , presently BBMP Katha No. 121/116/52/1/4. New E-PID No.6781152113, situated at GOLLAHALLI VILLAGE , UTTARAHALLI HOBLI, BANGALORE SOUTH TALUK, now comes under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore , measuring East to West : 30-0 Feet , North to South : 44 -0 Feet , Totally measuring 1320 Square Feet and the schedule property bounded on :
East By : Site No. 5,
West By : Site No. 3
North By : Kidwai Hosital Employees Colony,
South By :30 Feet Road
The Schedule property now comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike .which is more fully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the SCHEDULE PROPERTY.
Accordingly the general public is hereby cautioned not to enter in to any transaction of any agreement or deed, or otherwise in respect of the above mentioned schedule property. But my client came to know through reliable source that some un known persons or third persons or Any person who deals with Mr. Nagaraj.V S/o G. Veerasangachar (Adhaar No. 3326 6033 4476 & PAN NO. BAMPN0412J).in this regard mentioned above schedule property shall be doing so entirely at their own risk , cost , and consequences . Owner Dr. Purushotham Manvi S/o Sriramulu Manvi residing at No. 587 , 1st main Mico Layout, BTM 2nd Stage , Bangalore South -560 076 shall not be held responsible or liable for any loss , damage or hardship that may arise there from.
SD/-
A.VINESH Mcom, LLM,
Advocate
Office At: # No 2123, Cellar, Hebbal 2nd stage, Near Rani chennamma circle Mysore -570 017 Enr. No. KAR/725/2011, M-9342184760
Email-vinesh1967@gmail.com

CHANGE OF NAME
I, DODDATHAYAMMA D/o SIDDAIAH, R/o Yadamaranahalli Village And Post, Uyyamballi Hobali, Kanakapura, Yadamaranahalli, Kanakapura, Ramanagar, Karnataka562117, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DODDAMMA THAYI.

NAME CHANGE
I, **AYAZ**, Resident of No.29, KG-24, H B R 30 KG Layout, 2nd stage near masjid E, Inam Kadagondanahalli Rashad Nagar Bengaluru-560 045, have changed my name to **MOHAMMED AYAZ PASHA**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 19.01.2026, before notary R.BASAVARAJA Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, RANI W/o H R KRISHNA PRASAD, R/o 2171, Karthikeya, 4th Cross, E Block, Near Nayana Kumar, Multi Speciality Hospital, Nethaji Circle Dattagalli, 3rd Stage, Mysuru, Karnataka-570022, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VEDA G S.

NAME CHANGE
I, **GEORGE LOBO**, S/o Joseph Lobo, resident No 307, Griha Unnathi, Kyalasanhalli, Kothanur, Bengaluru-560077, have changed my name to **ANTHONY GEORGE LOBO**, vide affidavit dated: 19.01.2026, before Notary G. DAYANANDA, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, KUMARI GOUDA G S/o G AMAREGOUDA R/o Ward No. 02, Pinjara Oni, Near Kunta Maremma Temple, Moka, Ballari, Karnataka-583117, have changed the name of my minor son MOUNESH GOUDA G aged 17 years and he shall hereafter be known as MANU GOUDA G.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact:
080-41209042

QUICK READ

Second tiger found dead in Kaziranga

GUWAHATI

Less than a week after an earlier case, another tiger carcass was found in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve. Officials said a three to four year old tigress was found on Sunday in the Kathpora area of the Bagori Western Range. Park Director Sonali Ghosh formed a committee for post mortem and disposal as per NTCA rules. Early findings suggest the tigress died due to infighting. A young male tiger was found dead on January 14.

CBI questions TVK chief Vijay again

NEW DELHI

TVK chief and actor Vijay appeared before the CBI on Monday for a second round of questioning in the Karur stampede case. He reached the agency's Lodhi Road headquarters in a convoy of luxury vehicles. Officials said a team led by a Deputy Superintendent from the Anti-Corruption unit questioned him during the day. Vijay was earlier questioned for over six hours on January 12. The CBI is probing the 2025 stampede that killed 41 people.

Calcutta High Court takes pollution suo motu

KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Monday took suo motu notice of rising pollution levels in West Bengal, especially in Kolkata. A division bench led by Chief Justice Sujoy Paul registered a suo motu public interest case and linked two similar petitions. The matter will be heard on January 28. Notices have been issued to the Central and West Bengal governments. The court acted after observing worsening air quality in Kolkata during winter, with AQI levels often higher than Delhi.

Modi welcomes 'brother' Zayed with hug, greetings

The visit comes at a time of heightened tensions in West Asia; strained Iran-US relations, continued instability in Gaza, and unresolved Yemen conflict

Continued from page 1

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at the Delhi Airport on Monday, marking the start of the UAE President's official visit to India.

The two leaders shared a warm hug, exchanged greetings, and travelled together in the same car while leaving the airport.

Prime Minister Modi later described the UAE leader as his brother in a post on social media platform X. He said the visit showed the importance Sheikh Mohamed places on strengthening the close friendship between India and the UAE. Photographs shared by the Prime Minister showed both leaders sitting together in a car and greeting each other warmly.

The Ministry of External Affairs said the visit was held at the invitation of Prime Minister Modi and builds on recent high level exchanges. Officials noted that several senior UAE leaders visited India in recent months, adding momentum to bilateral ties. These included the September 2024 visit of Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Another key visit was by Dubai Crown Prince and UAE Defence Minister Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed in April 2025.

The UAE President's visit comes amid rising tensions in West Asia, including instability in Gaza and unresolved regional conflicts. International attention is also focused on expected new diplomatic efforts related to the Gaza situation. This is Sheikh Mohamed's third official visit to India as President and his fifth visit overall in the past decade. The visit highlights sustained high level engagement and the growing strategic partnership between New Delhi.

Defamation case: Rahul skips court, hearing deferred

SULTANPUR

The court fixed February 20 as the next date for further proceedings and made it clear that his presence would be required on that day

Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi did not appear before the MP MLA court in Sultanpur on Monday in a defamation case, leading the court to defer proceedings.

Gandhi, the sitting MP from Raebareli, was scheduled to record his statement before the court. However, his counsel Kashi Prasad Shukla informed the judge that the Congress leader was in Kerala due to a prior commitment.

Taking note of the submission, MP MLA court judge Shubham Verma granted Gandhi a final opportunity to appear in person. The court fixed February 20 as the next date for further proceedings and made it clear that his presence would be required on that day. Shukla later told reporters that Gandhi was likely to attend the hearing on the next scheduled date.

The defamation case was filed in October 2018 by local BJP worker Vijay Mishra from Hanumanganj in Sultanpur district. Mishra alleged that during election campaigning in Karnataka in August 2018, Gandhi made objectionable remarks against then BJP president Amit Shah. The case has been pending for several years, with multiple hearings and witness examinations.

In December 2023, the court issued a warrant against Gandhi after he failed to appear. He later surrendered before the court on February 20, 2024, and was granted bail on two bonds of Rs 25,000 each. On July 26, 2024, Gandhi recorded his statement, denied the allegations, and termed the case politically motivated.

Following his statement, the court directed the complainant to present evidence. Witness Ram Chandra Dubey was examined earlier this month and cross examined by the defence. On the next date, Gandhi must appear.

Mid-day meal cooks protest over meagre daily wage

RAIPUR

Mid-day meal cooks in Chhattisgarh continue an indefinite protest, demanding fair wages to survive rising living costs.

It has been 22 days since thousands of cooks, mostly women, gathered in Raipur seeking a wage hike. They currently receive only Rs 66 per day for preparing meals under the mid-day meal scheme. Nearly 95 per cent of protesters are women from rural and tribal areas. They say their work keeps schools running while their families struggle to survive.

The protest is led by the Chhattisgarh School Madhyanh Bhojan Rasoiya Sanyukta Sangh. Many cooks travelled long distances to join the agitation in the state capital. Savita Manikpuri, a cook since 2011, said governments change but their condition never improves. She said her children's education suffers as she cannot afford higher studies.

Association secretary Meghraj Baghel said about 87,000 cooks work under the scheme statewide. Since December 29, they have been on strike, affecting meal services in several schools. On average, 6,000 to 7,000 cooks protest daily in rotating batches. Baghel said wages rose from Rs 15 to only Rs 66 in three decades. They demand payment at collector rates of around Rs 440 per day. He compared wages with other states where cooks earn much more monthly.

The cooks fear losing their jobs when schools merge or enrolment drops. Bhuneshwari Markam said they work over five hours daily, not two. Many suffer health issues from firewood smoke. Protesters vowed to continue until demands are met. Congress leader Dipak Baij backed them, while officials remained unavailable.

ED summons YSRCP MP over AP liquor scam

HYDERABAD : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned YSRCP MP P V Midhun Reddy on January 23 for questioning in a money-laundering case linked to a Rs 3,500-crore liquor scam in Andhra Pradesh, officials said on Monday. The alleged irregularities took place during the previous YSRCP government. His statement will be recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The 48-year-old Rajampet MP was earlier named as an accused and arrested by the Andhra Pradesh Police special investigation team (SIT) in July 2025, but is currently out on bail. The ED has also summoned former MP Vijayasai Reddy on January 22 to provide details regarding the liquor policy implemented between 2019 and 2024. Vijayasai Reddy has also been named in the FIR filed by the SIT. The SIT alleged that illicit funds were routed through Reddy to former Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, who claims the case is politically motivated. The federal agency registered a PMLA case in September 2025 based on the SIT complaint.

Shiv Sena will honour mandate for Mahayuti in BMC: Shinde

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has confirmed that the Shiv Sena will honour the mandate for the BJP-led Mahayuti in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, sources said on Monday.

Following the recent civic polls, 29 newly-elected Shiv Sena corporators were shifted to a five-star hotel in Mumbai. Sources said the move is being unnecessarily exaggerated. The relocation is part of a training workshop for the new members, allowing Shinde to interact with them and outline expectations.

Speculation has arisen that Shinde wants the Shiv Sena to secure the BMC mayor's post for at least the first two-and-a-half years, as 2026 marks the birth centenary of party founder Bal Thackeray. However, Sena sources clarified that Shinde has not approached the BJP leadership about this, aware that the post is unlikely to be allotted to his party.

A close aide said Shiv Sainiks hope for a Sena mayor during the centenary year, but even public discussion of the issue is acceptable. Other important committees could still be secured for the party, the associate added.

Shinde, sources said, has no intention of violating the alliance's mandate. The BJP–Shiv Sena alliance won a narrow majority in the 227-member BMC, with 89 seats for the BJP and 29 for Shinde-led Sena. Sena (UBT) secured 65 seats, while ally MNS won six.

After meeting the newly-elected Shiv Sena members on Sunday, Shinde reaffirmed that Mumbai will have a Mahayuti mayor, underlining the alliance's commitment to its mandate and stability in civic governance.

GOVT REJECTS CONG CLAIMS ON VB-G RAM G SCHEME

NEW DELHI

Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday accused Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge of spreading misinformation about the VB-G RAM G scheme, asserting that the new Act strengthens the Right to Work.

He said the opposition's claims that employment would be limited to certain panchayats are "lies."

Chouhan addressed Congress' nationwide campaign, MGNREGA Bachao Sangram, launched on January 10 against the repeal of the UPA-era MGNREGA. Congress demands withdrawal of VB-G RAM G and restoration of MGNREGA as a rights-based law with panchayat authority.

He said the new scheme provides 125 days of guaranteed work, up from 100 under MGNREGA, and adds provisions for unemployment allowances within 15 days.

"Instead of weakening the Right to Work, we have strengthened it on the ground," Chouhan said.

The minister highlighted that VB-G RAM G will be implemented across all panchayats, with no extra burden on states. Central funding will increase, while state contributions will focus on village infrastructure. He added that Rs 9 lakh crore has been spent under the new scheme, compared to Rs 2 lakh crore during the UPA regime.

Chouhan claimed that Congress' misinformation campaign undermines its credibility and stressed that VB-G RAM G is aimed at village development. He also clarified that MGNREGA will continue until VB-G RAM G is rolled out in the next six months.

The minister urged citizens and stakeholders to ignore "false claims" and emphasised that the government remains committed to providing employment, strengthening rural infrastructure, and protecting the Right to Work across India.

Kavitha plans political party with Kishor Telangana

HYDERABAD

Former CM K Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter, K Kavitha, is reportedly in discussions with election strategist Prashant Kishor to launch her proposed political party, Telangana Jagruthi, sources said on Monday. Kavitha, who heads the cultural organisation Telangana Jagruthi, met Kishor during his recent five-day visit to Hyderabad to discuss the party launch, political space in Telangana, and other related issues. Kishor is also the founder of the Bihar-based Jan Suraaj party.

Kavitha, a former MP and MLC, was suspended from the BRS in September 2025 after accusing her cousins and party leaders T Harish Rao and J Santosh Kumar of tarnishing her father KCR's image over the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project. Following her suspension, she resigned from the Legislative Council, which was accepted earlier this month.

Since then, she has focused on public issues under Telangana Jagruthi. In December 2025, she accused both the BRS and ruling Congress of corruption and irregularities and announced her ambition to become Chief Minister to investigate alleged injustices since Telangana's formation in 2014.

Kavitha has confirmed that her political platform intends to contest the next assembly elections in the state. She has also criticised her father's party, calling the BRS Constitution a "joke" and distancing herself from certain unpopular decisions taken during the BRS rule. Her move marks a significant development in Telangana politics, signaling the rise of a new political platform led by a prominent regional leader with aspirations for state leadership and accountability in governance.

HEALTH ALERT

TN steps up Nipah virus vigil after cases in West Bengal

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu has stepped up disease surveillance and hospital preparedness after two Nipah virus cases were confirmed in West Bengal, triggering a nationwide health alert. Acting on advisories from the Union government, the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine has asked all district, city and municipal health authorities to intensify monitoring across the State. Special focus has been placed on identifying cases of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome at an early stage.

Health officials have been instructed to closely observe all patients reporting fever with altered sensorium. Particular attention must be given to people who have recently travelled to West Bengal or had contact with individuals from affected areas. Such patients should be promptly evaluated for possible Nipah virus infection, officials said, adding that early identification is key to preventing spread.

Health Minister Ma Subramanian said on Monday that detailed guidelines and precautionary measures had already been circulated to all districts. District Health Officers were directed to activate enhanced surveillance systems immediately. Block medical officers at the primary healthcare level and heads of all government hospitals were also asked to stay alert and prepared to respond quickly to any suspected cases.

Director of Public Health A Somasundaram said strong preparedness at the field level is vital during health alerts. He urged intensified awareness efforts to inform healthcare workers and the public about prevention and control. He stressed the need for better surveillance, early detection, improved treatment, and strict infection control in all health facilities. The Directorate asked government and private hospitals to immediately report all Acute Encephalitis Syndrome cases to District Surveillance Units, noting timely reporting can prevent spread.

QUICK READ

NCB seizes Rs 52 lakh drug money in raid

CHANDIGARH

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Chandigarh unit has seized Rs 52 lakh in connection with an investigation into psychotropic tablet diversion and money laundering. Following the arrest of an IKON director, raids were conducted at multiple locations after discovering cash hidden with associates. Rs 25 lakh was recovered on January 16, and Rs 27 lakh on Monday. So far, 17 people have been arrested. Authorities continue to search for more drug money linked to 34 lakh seized tablets and other materials.

NGT panel formed to probe tree felling row

NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has set up a panel to investigate claims of illegal tree felling in Madhya Pradesh. Authorities, including the state government, have been asked to respond. The state's top forest officer must report on actions taken against officers responsible for the alleged violations. The case concerns the cutting of over 1,242 trees, including teak and satkata, in the Narmadapuram forest division. The panel is expected to submit its findings soon.

Leprosy-afflicted beggar turns moneylender

INDORE

In a surprising discovery during an anti-beggary drive, officials in Indore found a 50-year-old leprosy-afflicted man who owns three houses, three autorickshaws, and a chauffeur-driven car. Despite moving around on a wheeled board seeking alms, the man has been quietly lending money in Indore's famous Sarafa Bazaar. He reportedly earns significant daily interest from his lending business. Authorities were stunned to learn that a person appearing to be a beggar had amassed property worth several lakh rupees.

'Fiscal, regulatory aid can anchor India's rise as global space power'

ISA calls for enhanced fiscal, regulatory and structural support to position India among world's top three spacefaring nations

NEW DELHI

The Indian Space Association (ISpA) on Monday called for stronger fiscal, regulatory, and structural support to help India emerge as a top global space power.

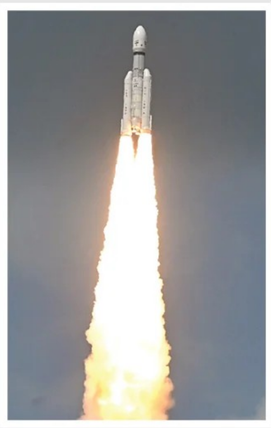
While the Space Policy 2023 allowed private sector participation, ISpA said the next step is to enhance domestic manufacturing, national security, high-value jobs, and global competitiveness, while ensuring secure access to strategic satellite and geospatial data.

The Association urged recognising the space sector as "critical infrastructure," which would enable infrastructure-grade financing, reduce capital costs by 2-3 per cent, and strengthen national resilience. ISpA highlighted that space underpins telecommunications, defence, navigation, finance, weather forecasting, disaster management, and governance.

Indian private players now have capabilities in satellites, launch systems, and ground infrastructure, but lack of assured government demand limits growth. ISpA recommended a formal procurement mandate, suggesting at least 50 per cent of government purchases of space-based services, hardware, and missions be sourced from Indian private entities.

The Association also suggested incentives including Production Linked Incentive schemes for satellites, launch vehicles, and space-grade components; five-year tax holidays for space manufacturing and services; 20-30 per cent R&D tax credits; and SEZ-like benefits for space tech parks and manufacturing clusters. Additional measures include duty-free imports, simplified foreign currency handling, employment-linked tax deductions, and concessional GST and customs duties on R&D equipment.

"India stands at a defining moment in its space journey. Recognising space as critical infrastructure and enabling private sector participation can shift the Government's role from provider to partner, anchoring India's rise as a global space leader," ISpA said.



KEY POINTS

- Recognize space as critical infrastructure
- Mandate 50% govt procurement from private firms
- Introduce PLI schemes and tax holidays
- Extend SEZ-like benefits to space hubs

Trinamool workers tear voters' forms in Hooghly

KOLKATA

Chaos unfolded at the Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) office in Hooghly district on Monday when a group of Trinamool Congress (TMC) workers, led by Chinsurah MLA Asit Majumdar, reportedly tore several Form-7 applications.

These forms are used to delete names of deceased or shifted voters from the draft electoral list. The incident occurred while claims and objections on the draft voters' list were being processed. While Majumdar denied witnessing his supporters destroying the forms, he claimed they were protesting against BJP activists submitting Form-7 applications on behalf of others.

The disruption led to scuffles between TMC and BJP workers, creating tense scenes at the office. Voters present at the venue criticized police for inaction, alleging that officers did not intervene to restore order. Majumdar questioned the deletion of 1.26 lakh names from the Hooghly Lok Sabha voters' list, accusing authorities of compromising democratic rights. BJP leaders alleged that the Trinamool Congress has long resisted Form-7 submissions to keep names of deceased or shifted voters in the electoral list, potentially enabling false voting.

Bombay HC keeps Ambernath alliance flip-flops in abeyance

MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday criticised the "globe-trotting" behaviour of certain NCP members in Ambernath while keeping the Thane district collector's orders on civic alliances in abeyance. The court's remarks came during a hearing on disputes arising from the December 20 Ambernath Municipal Council elections.

A bench of Justices Ravindra Ghuge and Abhay Mantri directed the collector to hear all parties — BJP, Congress, NCP, and Shiv Sena — and pass an order regarding recognition of alliances. The court referred to four NCP candidates who initially joined the BJP-Congress-backed Ambernath Vikas Aghadi (AVA) but later shifted support to Shiv Sena, terming their actions "globe-trotting." Justice Ghuge quipped, "Today, these four persons are with him (Eknath Shinde), yesterday with someone else. What if tomorrow they go with someone else?"

In the election, Shiv Sena emerged as the single-largest party with 27 of 60 seats, while BJP won 14, Congress 12, NCP four, and independents two. The BJP joined hands with Congress under AVA to secure the council chairperson post, sidelining Shiv Sena. The Thane collector initially recognised AVA on January 7, but after political shifts, recognised the NCP-Shiv Sena tie-up on January 9, derecognising AVA. AVA challenged this decision in the High Court.

The court directed parties to submit written statements to the collector by January 28, who must issue an order within 21 days. The collector's decision will remain unenforced for two weeks, allowing aggrieved parties to approach the court. Until then, the January 7 and 9 communications will remain in abeyance.

The ruling highlights judicial intervention in local political disputes and the volatile nature of post-election alliances in Ambernath.

Accord heritage protection for Varanasi Dal Mandi: Yadav

VARANASI

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Monday criticised the Uttar Pradesh government over the Dal Mandi redevelopment project in Varanasi, calling for preservation of heritage structures rather than their demolition.

The controversy erupted amid allegations that temples and statues near Manikarnika Ghat were damaged during road-widening work.

In a Hindi social media post, Yadav wrote, "Heritages are threaded like pearls; they are not demolished, they are cherished," along with photographs showing statues purportedly affected by the redevelopment. One image showed the Ahilyabai statue in debris, highlighting his concern for cultural preservation.

Earlier, Yadav had accused the ruling BJP of targeting small traders and local residents in Dal Mandi, claiming that the party prioritised benefits for its associates while oppressing shopkeepers and households. He described the situation as betrayal and warned that people would no longer tolerate such actions.

The UP government and local administration, however, denied the allegations. Officials said images of Hindu deities were being misused to spread misinformation.

EC extends TN voter roll revision deadline

CHENNAI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has extended the deadline for filing claims and objections in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Tamil Nadu's electoral rolls to January 30, 2026. The extension allows eligible voters extra time to verify and correct their electoral details.

Chief Electoral Officer Archana Patnaik said the initial deadline had ended on January 18, but the Commission reviewed multiple factors to ensure maximum voter inclusion. Citizens are urged to use this extended period to add names, correct errors, or object to incorrect or duplicate entries in the voter list.

The SIR exercise, announced in October 2025, used January 1, 2026 as the qualifying date for determining voter eligibility. Draft electoral rolls were published on December 19, 2025, and claims and objections were initially accepted until January 18, 2026. The Commission, exercising powers under Rule 12 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, extended the period by nearly two weeks to ensure no eligible voter is left out due to procedural or logistical challenges.

Officials emphasized that the SIR process is vital for maintaining accurate electoral rolls, removing ineligible entries, updating details, and including newly eligible voters. Claims and objections can be submitted at designated election offices or through prescribed online platforms.

The extended deadline is particularly beneficial for first-time voters, migrants, and those whose names were inadvertently missed or contain errors, enhancing the credibility and integrity of Tamil Nadu's voter list ahead of upcoming elections.

GAZA PEACE PLAN

'Gaza Peace Board could signal end of UN'

NEW DELHI

Foreign Affairs expert Robinder Sachdev on Monday said that if the proposed Gaza Board of Peace achieves its goals, it could mark the end of the United Nations. The initiative, proposed by US President Donald Trump, aims to bring stability and oversee post-conflict reconstruction in the Gaza Strip.

Sachdev welcomed Trump's invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to participate, describing the region as "virtually a living hell on earth" and stressing the importance of global attention. He noted that the initiative highlights the current limitations of the United Nations, which was originally created to manage such peace efforts. "If this board comes to fruition and delivers on its objectives, it will signal the end of the United Nations system," Sachdev said.

He added that India should support and participate in efforts that promote peace in Gaza. The expert also observed that the board's model could extend beyond Gaza and serve as a template for addressing future international conflicts. "If these boards take meaningful steps,

the UN could become redundant," he remarked.

The Board of Peace would oversee portfolios critical to Gaza's stabilisation, including governance, reconstruction, investment attraction, and capital mobilisation. According to a White House statement, world leaders from 60 countries have been invited to join. Countries committing USD 1 billion would secure permanent seats on the board, while others could participate for three-year terms.

This high-profile international initiative underscores the growing role of new multilateral efforts in conflict resolution, challenging the traditional UN-led processes while aiming to bring swift and practical solutions to war-torn regions like Gaza.

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POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of **Manappuram Home Finance Ltd ("MAHOFIN")** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest *[Act], 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice** calling upon the borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and Interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic** possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said *[Act] read with rule 9 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Manappuram Home Finance Ltd as mentioned below for each of the respective properties:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower and Co-borrower / Loan account number/ Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Date of Demand Notice sent & Outstanding Amount	Date of Possession
1	Sumathi M, Rajanna T, **/MHL00340009764/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 12/50 Nanjundaswamynagara, Pl.D. No. 150800300800121241, Situated At Madhuvinahalli Grama, Madhuvinahalli Gramapanchayat, Kollegala Block, Chamarajanagara (D), Karnataka - 571440 Admeasuring: 55.74 Sq Mts. East-House of Kalashetty, West-House of Masanashetty., South-Road, North-House of Kumara	14-10-2025 & Rs. 268755/-	17-01-2026
2	Gangadevi M, Kumar A M, Ramya DG, **/MHL00930012163/** Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Building Bearing Grama Panchayath Khatha No. 119/1 And E-Khatha No. 1525004034016 20056 Measuring East To West: 14.9352 Mtrs And North To South: 6.096 1 Mtrs Is Situated At Avaragere Village, Yadiyuru Hobli, Kunigal Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka - 572130. East-Road, West-Property of Lakshmamma, South-Property of Venkatesh, North-Property of Venkatamma	14-10-2025 & Rs. 284616/-	17-01-2026
3	Anjaneya M, Manjappa K, Udachavva Gudikotti, **/NLAP0051004796/** Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There on Being Bearing A Property No. 5/1, E-Property No. 151200503900420084, Measuring Total 94.76 Sq. Meter, Including 94.76 Sq. Meter Building, Situated At Hanumasagara Village, At Hanumasagara Village Panchayath, Honnalli Taluk, Davangere District, Karnataka - 577217. East-House of Basavarajappa, West-House of Solle Thimmappa, South-House of Kariyamma, North-Road	14-10-2025 & Rs. 285914/-	17-01-2026
4	Shobha C, Mohan Kumar S, Shivegowda B, **/MHL00910021569/** Hassan	All That Piece And Parcel of The site And Housepropery Bearing No. 151600600100600149, Gram Panchayathproperty No. 160/137, In Survey No. 19, Situated Atbhommenahalli Village, Yalagundagram Panchayath, Hassan Taluk And Hassan District, Karnataka-573219 Totally Measuring 129.32 Square Meters. East-Road, West-Own Property, South-Own Property, North-House Property of Sri. Shivappanayaka.	14-10-2025 & Rs. 307526/-	17-01-2026
5	Savithri Bai, Nagaraj Naik, Yathish N, **/MHL00510010836/** Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There on Being Bearing Site/Khatha/Property No. 133, Property No. 151200501900500162, Measuring Total 211.81 Sq. Meter, Including 105.90 Sq. Meter Building, Situated At Kengatte Village, Odeyarahatturu Village Panchayath, Nyamathi/Honnalli Taluk, Davangere District, Karnataka - 577230. East-Road, West-House of R. Manja Naika, South-Land of Siddappa, North-Road	14-10-2025 & Rs. 334112/-	17-01-2026
6	Dandyamma P, P C Parashuramappa, **/MHL00480019737/** Davangare	All That Piece And Parcel of Village Panchayath Property No. 383, E-Swathu No. 151200601200300395, Measuring 6.4024 X 6.7073 Meter = 42.94 Sq. Mtrs. Situated At Gurusiddapura Village, Jagalur Taluk, Davangere District, Karnataka - 577513. East-House of Chennamma W/O Shivamurthappa, West-House of Kadamma, South-House of Maddanamma, North-Road	14-10-2025 & Rs. 333442/-	17-01-2026
7	Manjula M, Kumar N, Usha Kumar, Ramesha R, **/MHL00340015900/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 64/1, Pl.D. No. 152200620049200453, Situated At Hunasavadi Village, Hunasavadi Grampanchayath, Periyapatna Taluk, Mysuru District, Karnataka - 571107 Measuring Totally 148.64 , Square-Meters. East-House Belongs To Rangaswamy, West-House Belongs To Siddalingaiah, South-House of Manjula, North-House Belongs To Siddalingaiah	14-10-2025 & Rs. 336027/-	17-01-2026
8	Riyaj B, Sher Ali, Thajuddhin J, **/MLAP0048007952/** Davangare	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property No. 189/P, E Swathu No. 151200103100200546, Measuring 66 X 33 Fts i.e 2178 Sq Fts, Situated At Doddaghatta Village, Navilehaal Gram Panchayath, Channagiri, Karnataka - 577544. East-Remaining Property of Nisar, West-House of Fazlun Bi, South-Conservancy In Between Peerusab And Parveen Shoukath, North-Panchayath Sewage	14-10-2025 & Rs. 348251/-	17-01-2026
9	Janamma T, Raghu SR, **/MLAP0051032177/** Shimoga	All That Part And Parcel of The Property Bearing Rdpr Khata No. 150900205200600392, As Per Gram Panchayat Record Property No. 301/1, Measuring In Total 76.65 Sq Meter Situated At Saraswathipura, Saraswathipura Gram Panchayat. Kaduru Taluk And Chikkamagaluru District, Karnataka - 577548. East- House of Ramachandrappa, West-House of Devendrappa, South-House of Chandramma, North-Road	14-10-2025 & Rs. 358309/-	17-01-2026
10	Anitha B G, Rajkumar K, **/MHL00340010012/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Karadahalli Gramapanchayathi Property No. 3/6 Ka Ni As Per Form No. 9 And11a Unique No. 152100501801400005 Situated At Chikkayugati Village, Nagamangala Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka - 571432 Measuring East To West: 10.670 Meters And North To South: 11.585 Meters. East-Vacant Site, West-Public Kitchen House, South-Road, North-Road	14-10-2025 & Rs. 366759/-	17-01-2026
11	Santhosh N, Rakshitha A, Rajamma K, Ningaiah J, **/NLAP0034037127/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 59/47/3, Pl.D. No. 152200700804900315, Situated At Vaddarakoppalu Village, Maliyuru Gramapanchayath, T. Narasipura Taluk And Mysore District, Karnataka - 571101 Total Measuring 51.28 Square Meters. East-Conservancy And House Belongs To Thayamma, West-House Belongs To Javaraye, South-House Belongs To Puttellaiah, North-Road	14-10-2025 & Rs. 390631/-	17-01-2026
12	Prema K, Ravi T, **/MLAP0091001382/** Hassan	All That Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Bearing Property Id No. 151600702401500270, Gram Panchayath Property No. 224, Situated At Jakanahalli Village, Kyathanahalli Gram Panchayath, Holenarasipura Taluk, Hassan District, Karnataka - 573210 Totally Measuring 312.15 Square Meters. East-Road, West-Own Vacant Property., South-Site Property Belongs To Sri. Devegowda., North-Government Channel And Road.	14-10-2025 & Rs. 380075/-	17-01-2026
13	Imdad Faraz Khan, Dilshad Unnisa, Habeeb Khan, **/NLAP0051011908/** Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Property Under Municipal Khatha No. 177/2-797/2 Pl.D. No. 25932, Measuring, Total 546 Sq. Feet, Situated At Ward No. 25, Hale Mandli, Shivamogga City, Shivamogga District, Karnataka - 577202. East-Property of Tanvir Khan S/O Azizas Khan, West-N.t. Road, South-Property of Mohammed Nasir, North-Kaman Onni And Property of Mohiddin Khan	14-10-2025 & Rs. 383546/-	17-01-2026
14	Mahadevamma M, Veerashetty N, **/MLAP0090007383/** Vivekananda Circle	All That Piece & Parcel of The Property, Property No. 1173 Unique No. 150800200100121132 Suited At Beguru Village And Beguru Gramapanchayathi Gundlupete Taluk Chamarajanagara District. Measurement East-West-9.14 North-South-12.19, East-Vacant Site of Sharadhamma, West - Vacant Site of Sharadhamma, South-Vacant Site of Sharadhamma, North - Roadvillage Beguru Grama Panchathy Gundlupete Talluk, Ch. Nagar-571109, Main Road Gundlupet Chamrajnagar Karnataka Pin: 571109 P.O. Begur. East-Vacant Site of Sharadhamma, West-Vacant Site of Sharadhamma, South-Vacant Site of Sharadhamma, North-Road	14-10-2025 & Rs. 194115/-	17-01-2026
15	Mahadevamma M, Mallanna M, Santhosh Kumar, **/NLAP0034000836/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 5/6, Pl.D. No. 150800300600220006, Situated At Kamalipura Grama, Palya Gramapanchayat, Kollegala Block, Chamarajanagara (D), Karnataka -571440 Measuring: E-W: 9.144 Meter & N-S: 12.192 Meter. East-Road, West-House of Mahadevamma., South-Road, North-House of Rathnamma	14-10-2025 & Rs. 416124/-	17-01-2026
16	Lakshmamma V, Subhash Chandrabose D, Ravindranatha V, **/MHL00930012373/** Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The House Bearing Property No. 426/09 And E-Katha. 152500503500120281 Measuring East To West: 9.144 Meters, And North To South: 12.192 Meters And Total House Measuring 55.74 Sq Meters, Situated At Dodderi Village, Dodderi Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk, Tumkur District, Under The Limit of Dodderi Gramapanchayath, Karnataka Pin: 572112. East-Survey No. Property, West-Road, South-House of Siddagangamma W/O Hanumantharayappa, North-House of Putteramma W/O Narshimaiah	14-10-2025 & Rs. 232098/-	17-01-2026
17	Lakshmamma S, Shivanna E, Chandrashekhar B S, Chandrakala S, **/MHL00930012175/** Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The House Bearing Khata No. 221/194 And E-Katha No. 152500400500100439 Measuring East To West: 12.192 Meters, And North To South: 15.24 Meters And Total Measuring 185.81 Sq Meters, Situated At Bagenahalli Village, Kothagere Hobli, Kunigal Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka 572130., Under The Limit of Bagenahalli Gramapanchayath,. East-House of Nanajappa, West: Property of Honnamma, South-Road, North-Own.	14-10-2025 & Rs. 239633/-	17-01-2026
18	Abhishek G, Manjula S, Suneetha M, Abhijith G, **/NHL00340000177/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 35/35, Pl.D. No. 15220010110030040, Situated At Dasanapura Grama, Naganahalli Gramapanchayat, H.D. Kote Block, Mysore (D), Karnataka Pin: 571114. Measuring: E-W: 9.144 Meter& N-S: 12.192 Meter. East-Taraka Canal & Road, West-House of Gajendra., South-House of Manjula, North-House of Bannamma	14-10-2025 & Rs. 272631/-	17-01-2026
19	Savithramma S, Siddegowda K, **/MHL00340012818/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No.5/1A, Pl.D. No.152200403127021526, Situated At Yelwala Village, Yelwala Grama Panchayath, Mysuru Taluk, Mysuru District, Measuring East To West 3.5052 Meters And North To South 10.3632 Meters, Karnataka Pin: 571130. East-Property Belongs To Bhagya., West-Property Belongs To Savithri., South-Road, North-House Belongs To Kuttaiah.	14-10-2025 & Rs. 249128/-	17-01-2026
20	Sumitra V, Hemanth V, **/MLAP0051003553/** Shimoga	Property No. 21, E-Property No. 152400502400820006, Measuring East - West 18.288 Meter X North - South 12.192 Meter, Total 222.96 Sq.meter, Vinayak Nagara, Sogane Grama Panchayth, Sogane Grama Panchayth, Shimoga, P.O. Sogane, Shimoga, Karnataka, Pin: 577222. East-Site No. 19, West-Road, South-Site No. 15, North-Site No. 13	14-10-2025 & Rs. 393463/-	17-01-2026
21	Prakashgouda Channagouda Timmannagouda, Jayavva Prakashgouda Timmanagouda, Patil Manjunath Gowda, **/NHL00260013517/** Hubli	Property Bearing VPC No. 14/1/667, Property No. 151700700800320003, Total Measuring 149.40 Sq.ft, Near Govt Primary School, At: Manchinakoppa, Tq: Sgiggaou, Dist: Haveri, Karnataka 581193. East-Property of Channagouda N Timmanagoudra, West-Govt. Road, South-Property of Yallangagouda Mallanagouda Huded, North-Property of Marutigouda H Timmanagouda	14-10-2025 & Rs. 407721/-	17-01-2026
22	Siddamma C, Manjanatha S, Siddaiah M, **/MHL00340010085/** Mysore	Property No. 680, Unique No. 152200426114001070, Udbur Village & GP, Mysore Taluk, And Mysore District, Measuring East To West, 13.4112 Meterss And North To South 7.62 Meters, Total 102.19 Sq.mtrs, Main Road, Mysuru, P.O. Jayapura, Mysore, Karnataka, Pin: 570008. East-House Belong To Salundi Ankaiah Siddnaika, West-Road, South-House Belongs To Rathanamma W/O Shivannashetty, North-Road	14-10-2025 & Rs. 400266/-	17-01-2026
23	Gowramma P, Harisha P, Puttaswamygowda S, Girija H B, **/MHL00340010004/** Mysore	Sl No. 26-14-72 Assesment No. 735/A Old No. 482 Ward No. 3, Measuring 91.416552 Sq.metrs, Gollara Beedi Piriyapatna Town Mysore Dist, P.O. Periyapatna, Mysore, Karnataka, Pin: 571107. East-Property Belongs To Puttamma, West-Property Belongs To Rajani, South-Property Belongs To Jayamma, North-Road	14-10-2025 & Rs. 401353/-	17-01-2026
24	Shama B, Zuhaib Ulla Baig S, **/MHL00340032253/** Mysore	Property No. 205, Unique No. 151600702300520015, Totally Measuring 89.19 Square Meters, Mukkamahalli Village & Anekannambadi GP, Holenarasipura Taluk & Hassan District, P.O. Anekannambadi, Hassan, Karnataka, Pin: 573210. East-Road, West-Land Belongs To Ameen Baig, South-House Belongs To Samiullabaig, North-Own Land	14-10-2025 & Rs. 412517/-	17-01-2026
25	Prema N, Shivananjappa B, Nagendrakumar S, **/MHL00340011487/** Mysore	Property No. 17 Unique No. 150800201800500016., Belavadi Village, Hundipura GP, Gundlupete Block, Chamarajnagar District, Total Measuring 184.78 Meters, Main Road, Gundlupet, P.O. Hundipura, Chamrajnagar, Karnataka, Pin: 571111. East-Road, West-Vacant Site Belongs To Mahadevappa, South-Vacant Site Belongs To Gaviyappa, North-Vacant Site Belongs To B V Gaviyappa	14-10-2025 & Rs. 410596/-	17-01-2026
26	Gowramma, Krishna V, **/MLAP0034038595/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 54/54, Pl.D. No. 15220054307700057 2, Situated At Ariyuru Village, Hadya Canine Gramapanc Ayath, Nanjanagud Taluk, Mysuru District, Measuring East Towest 8. 2296 Meters And North To South 16, 4592 Meters, Totally 135. 45 Square Meters Pin 571315, Karnataka. East-Conservancy And Property Belongs To Bogamallanna, West-Road, South-Conservancy And Property Belongs To Naganaika, North-Conservancy And Property Belongs To Parvathamma	14-10-2025 & Rs. 246179/-	17-01-2026
27	Nagaraju B, Yashwanth N, P Saroja, **/NHL01280039117/** Chamrajnagar	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 347/3B, Pl.D. No. 150800400300220051, Situated At Y. K. Mole Grama, Duggahatti Gramapanchayat, Yalanduru Block, Chamarajanagara (D). Measuring: Ew: 5.486 Meter & N-S: 5.486 Meter Admeasuring 30.10 Sq Mts of Site 30.10 of Building, Pin: 571441, Karnataka. East-House of Chikkananjamma, West-Road, South-House of Lakshmamma, North-Pathway	14-10-2025 & Rs. 288665/-	17-01-2026
28	Ravi, Mahadevamma, Shivanna, **/NHL00340040321/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing Hosahalli Grama Katha No. 95/1, Pl.D. No. 152200702711700109, Situated At Hosahalli Grama, Mooguru Gramapanchayat, T. Narasipuura Block, Mysore (D). Measuring: E-W: 6.096 Meter & N-S: 9.144 Meter, Admeasuring: 5.74 Sq Mts. Pin: 571124, Karnataka. East-House of Asha Shivanna, West-House of Puttamadamma, South-House of Siddaraju, North-Road	14-10-2025 & Rs. 302031/-	17-01-2026
29	Maruthi Prasanna M, Puttamma P, Hemanta Kumar E, **/NHL00900034363/** Vivekananda Circle	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 130/1, Pl.D. No. 152200102221600672, Situated At Sagare Grama, Sagaregramapanchayat, Mysore Block, Mysore (D). Measuring: E-W: 8.2296 Meter & N-S: 6.096 Meter Admeasuring 50.17 Sq Mts Pin: 571121, Karnataka. East-Galli & House of Thayamma, West-House of Rajamma, South-Road, North-House of Sarojamma	14-10-2025 & Rs. 322376/-	17-01-2026
30	Rekha, Ravi, **/MLAP0034038679/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 58- 5077- 101, Assessment No. 2874/1, Old Property No. 2874/1, Ward No. 1, Situe Ted At Ranganatha Koppalu, Hunsur Taluk, Mysore District, Measuring East To West 6.096012 Meters And North To South 12. 192024 Meters, Totally SS. 7418 Square Meterspin 571105, Karnataka. East-Government Road, West-Property Belongs To Ningajamma, South-Vacant Property Belongs To Venkataiah S/O Thimmaiah, North-House Belongs To Dinesh And Vacant Shed	14-10-2025 & Rs. 365180/-	17-01-2026
31	Parveen Taj B, Mahamad Yusuf K P, **/MHL00340007949/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing Junjer No. 1079/960, Property No. 371, Pl.D. No. 152200200803301428, Situated At Bilikere Village, Bilikere Grama Panchayath, Hunsur Taluk And Mysuru District, Karnataka - 571103 Total Measuring 111.41 Square Meters. East-Site Belong To Suresh, West-Land, South-Road, North-Land	14-10-2025 & Rs. 419076/-	17-01-2026
32	Lakshmi, Mutturajshetty, **/MLAP0034036741/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 12087/27, Pl.D. No. 150800301000101438, Situated At Doddinduvadi Village, Doddinduvadi Gramapanchayath, Kollegala Taluk, Chamarajanagara District, Karnataka, Pin: 571443, Measuring Totally 111.48 Square Meters. East-House Belongs To Basavashetty., West-House Belongs To Chennamma., South-House Belongs To Madeva., North-Road.	14-10-2025 & Rs. 419593/-	17-01-2026
33	Basavaraj Shivappa Sannabidanuru, Mamata Basavaraj Sannabinavar, Suresha Ningappa Malagunda, **/NHL00260029555/** Hubli	All That Part And Parcel of The Bearing Gram Panchayat No. 89/3, Measuring 55.62 Sq Mtrs Along With Residential Structure, Bearing E-Property No. 151700201700500227 of Kirawadi Village, Within The Limits of Gram Panchayat Kirawadi, Tq: Hangal, Dist: Haveri, Karnataka - 581120. East-Path, West-Property of Nagappa Kondoji., South-Property of Parashuram Sanabinavar., North-Property of Jagadeesh Hanchi	14-10-2025 & Rs. 427640/-	17-01-2026
34	Rekha Pujar, Muttappa Nilappa Pujari, Renuka Bailappa Madar, **/MLAP0026040227/** Hubli	Residential 11B Property Bearing Vpc No. 230/1, Property No. 150100100800281038, Total Measuring 145.88Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 60.76Sq Mtr In Rs No. 3/*/* Situated At Kulageri Village Within Kulageri Cross Gram Panchayat, Tq: Badami & Dist: Bagalkot, Karnataka - 587155. East-Property of Minakshi Nagesh Channadasar, West-Property of Renavva Bailappa Madar, South-Road, North-Road	14-10-2025 & Rs. 419536/-	17-01-2026
35	Chikkatayamma, Mahesha P, Varalakshmi J, **/MLAP0034040505/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 207, Pl.D. No. 15220070200952 0742, Situated At Vadeyandahalli Grama, Talakadu Gramapanchayat, Rd Narasipura Block, Mysore (D), Karnataka- 571122, Measuring: 111.48 Sq Mts. East-House of Nagamma, West-House of Sakamma, South-House of Mahadevamma, North-Road	14-10-2025 & Rs. 422426/-	17-01-2026
36	Chowdaiah C, Gowramma J, Anjankumar H H, **/NLAP0034036249/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing Hemmige A Gramada, Demand No. 636/631, Pl.D. No. 152200702400320199, Situated At Hemmige Grama, Hemmige Gramapanchayat, T. Narasipura Block, Mysore (D)., Karnataka - 571124, Admeasuring: 56. 86 Sq Mts. East-House of Devamma, West-House of Gundaiah, South-House of Siddamma, North-Road	14-10-2025 & Rs. 442075/-	17-01-2026
37	Lakshmamma H, Manjunatha U G, Thanuja M, **/MHL00480021455/** Davangare	All That Piece And Parcel of Village Panchayath Property No. 110/B, E-Swathu No. 151200102300420076, Measuring East West 9.144 Meter, North South 12.192 Meter = 111.48 Sq. Mtrs, Wherein House Constructed Measuring 111.48 Sq.mtrs, Situated At Ubrani Village, Channagiri Tq, Davangere District, Karnataka - 577213. East-Gramathana, West-Village Panchayath Road, South-House of Bhimappa., North-Vacant Site of Gangadharappa	14-10-2025 & Rs. 438444/-	17-01-2026
38	Rathnamma L, Shankaramurthy P, **/MHL00900021545/** Vivekananda Circle	All That Piece & Parcel of The Property Bearing Horalavadi Gramapanchayathi Property No. 77 As Per Form No. 11B Unique No. 152200525004000763 Situated At Kullakanahundi Village & Horalavadi Gramapanchayathi Nanjangudu Taluk And Mysure District - 571129 Karanataka Measuring East To West: 4.7244 Meters And North To South: 12.192 Meters. East: House of Mahadevanayaka, West-Road, South-Road, North-Road	14-10-2025 & Rs. 434926/-	17-01-2026
39	Kantharaja J, Rukmini D D, Jnana Nanda M, **/NHL00340003655/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Hampapura Gramapanchayathi Property No. 21 Janger No. 33 And As Per Form No. 9 And 11A Unique No. 152200300116800033 Situated At Sanyasipura Village, Krishnarajanagara Taluk, Within The Jurisdiction of Hampapura Gramapanchayathi Measuring East To West: 7.62 Meters And North To South: 28.95 Meters In Karnataka - 571601. East-Galli And Thereafter House of Sannamma, West-Galli And Thereafter House of Rachaiah Kaggalamma And Site, South-Road, North-Property of Bhagya Wife of Ravi	14-10-2025 & Rs. 475480/-	17-01-2026

Date: 20th January 2026 | Place: KARNATAKA **Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd**

QUICK READ

Chile declares 'state of catastrophe' as wildfires leave at least 18 dead

Biobio

Chilean President Gabriel Boric has declared a state of catastrophe in two regions where deadly wildfires have left at least 18 people dead. More than 50,000 people have also been evacuated in the Ñuble and Biobío regions, about 500km (300 miles) south of the capital Santiago. Boric said the death toll was expected to increase. The most dangerous fire has swept through dry forests bordering the coastal city of Concepción. About 250 homes have been destroyed, disaster officials said.

Pentagon readies 1,500 troops for potential Minnesota deployment

Washington

The Pentagon has ordered about 1,500 active-duty soldiers in Alaska to prepare for a possible deployment to Minnesota, the site of large protests against the government's deportation drive, two U.S. officials told Reuters. The U.S. Army placed the units on prepare-to-deploy orders in case violence in the midwestern state escalates, the officials said, though it is not clear whether any of them will be sent. President Donald Trump on Thursday threatened to use the Insurrection Act to deploy military forces if officials in the state do not stop protesters from targeting immigration officials after a surge in Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

A deadly train collision in southern Spain has left at least 39 dead, triggering a major investigation

At Least 39 Killed in Southern Spain Train Collision

ADAMUZ

At least 39 people were killed and dozens more injured after two passenger trains collided in southern Spain, marking the country's worst rail disaster in more than a decade, according to the Civil Guard. The fatal accident occurred evening when a Madrid-bound train derailed and crossed onto the opposite track, colliding head-on with an oncoming service near Adamuz, in the province of Córdoba.

Authorities said around 400 passengers and railway staff were travelling on the two trains at the time of the crash. Emergency services treated 122 people at the scene and nearby hospitals, while 48 victims, including five children, remain hospitalised. Of those admitted, 11 adults and one child are reported to be in intensive care, highlighting the severity of injuries caused by the impact. Spain's Transport Minister Óscar Puente said the death toll was not yet final and confirmed that a full-scale investigation has been launched. Describing the incident as extremely strange, Puente said all railway experts consulted by the government were extremely baffled by the circumstances surrounding the crash. He made the remarks while briefing reporters in Madrid.

Rail network operator Adif said the collision occurred at approximately 7:45 pm local time (18:45 GMT), about an hour after the northbound train departed Málaga en route to Madrid. The derailment took place on what officials described as a straight stretch of track, raising further questions about the cause of the accident.

According to Puente, the force of the collision pushed the carriages of the second train into a nearby embankment. Most of those killed or seriously injured were travelling in the front carriages of this train, which was heading south from Madrid towards Huelva.

The trains involved included a Freccia 1000 high-speed unit, capable of reaching speeds of up to 400 km/h, a spokesperson for Ferrovie dello Stato told Reuters. Rescue teams said the twisted wreckage made operations extremely challenging, with emergency workers forced to cut through mangled metal to reach trapped passengers.

UN Chief Says US Prioritises Power Over International Law

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General criticises United States' stance on global governance, saying power appears to outweigh international legal norms

The head of the United Nations, António Guterres, has sharply criticised the United States for what he described as a willingness to act with impunity and a belief that its power matters more than international law. In an interview, Guterres warned that such attitudes risk weakening the fundamental principles of the UN Charter and multilateral cooperation.

Speaking in the context of recent geopolitical events, Guterres said Washington appeared convinced that multilateral solutions were irrelevant and that the exercise of U.S. power and influence often overshadowed the norms of international law. He argued that this trend threatens the equality of nations — a core founding principle of the United Nations.

The comments come against the backdrop of significant global controversy over U.S. foreign actions in recent weeks. In early January 2026, American forces struck inside Venezuela, captured its president, Nicolás Maduro, and brought him to the United States to face criminal charges — a move widely condemned by some nations and legal experts as a breach of international law. Reuters reporting and UN statements indicated that Guterres and other UN officials viewed the operation as setting a dangerous precedent and potentially violating the UN Charter's prohibition on the use of force against the territorial integrity of states.

Guterres also highlighted repeated comments by Donald Trump, including threats regarding Greenland, which he said exemplify a wider belief among some policymakers that traditional international frameworks can be overridden by national priorities.

Trump previously used his address at the 2025 General Assembly to question the relevance of the United Nations itself, claiming to have resolved global conflicts without the organisation's involvement — remarks that Guterres said reflected a broader challenge to multilateralism.

While Guterres stressed that the UN remains extremely engaged in global peace efforts, he acknowledged the body lacks leverage compared with powerful states, raising concerns about the organisation's ability to enforce international law.

Japan PM Takaichi calls snap election three months after taking office

TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi will dissolve parliament, paving the way for an election next month that she hopes will give her a stronger mandate to govern.

It was an extremely weighty decision that would determine Japan's course together with the people, Takaichi told a news conference. She also told voters to entrust her with running Japan.

The vote to elect the 465 members of the House of Representatives, the lower and more powerful house in Japan, will take place on 8 February.

Takaichi and her cabinet have enjoyed high public support since taking office last October.

Her Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) currently has 199 seats - including three held by its independent partners - in the House of Representatives, the most out of any party.

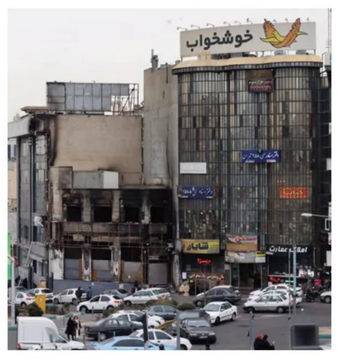
The LDP's coalition with the Japan Innovation party has just enough seats for a majority in the lower house.

A protege of former conservative PM Shinzo Abe and self-professed admirer of Margaret Thatcher, Takaichi, Japan's first female leader, is known as the country's Iron Lady.

In December, her cabinet approved a record defence budget of nine trillion yen ($57bn; £43bn). This comes amid growing concern over China, with Tokyo describing its neighbour's military activities in the region as its greatest strategic challenge.

Takaichi has found herself the target of China's ire since last November, when she made comments suggesting that Japan could respond with its own self-defence force if China attacked Taiwan.

The diplomatic spat that ensued has sent bilateral ties plunging to their lowest point in more than a decade.



Iran to consider lifting internet ban; state TV hacked

DUBAI

Iran may lift its internet blackout in a few days, a senior parliament member said on Monday, after authorities shut communications while they used massive force to crush protests in the worst domestic unrest since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

In the latest sign of weakness in the authorities' control, state television appeared to be hacked late, briefly showing speeches by U.S. President Donald Trump and the exiled son of Iran's last shah calling on the public to revolt.

Vietnam Communist Party CongBegins Under Tight Security

HANOI

Delegates attending the Communist Party congress in Vietnam, which began on Monday, have been placed under unusually tight security measures, including restrictions on communication and movement, according to two people briefed on the arrangements. The steps underscore the political sensitivity of the once-in-five-years gathering, where the country's future leadership and policy direction will be decided.

The approximately 1,600 delegates have been issued Samsung tablet computers that do not have internet access and have been cut off from the mobile phone network for the duration of the week-long event, the sources said. In addition, participants are required to stay in designated accommodation and are not permitted to move freely, reflecting heightened efforts to prevent leaks, outside influence, or disruptions during the congress.

The congress is being held under the authority of the Communist Party of Vietnam, which dominates the country's political system. The event is considered the most important political meeting in Vietnam, setting leadership appointments and policy priorities for the next five years and beyond.

At the centre of the congress is the selection of Vietnam's top leader for the remainder of the decade.

Syria declared a nationwide ceasefire with Kurdish-led forces, ending weeks of fighting

Syrian Govt Announces Nationwide Ceasefire With Kurdish-Led SDF

DAMASCUS

The Syrian government has announced an immediate nationwide ceasefire with the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), marking a major political and military shift that brings Damascus close to regaining full control over the country. According to Syrian state media, the ceasefire ends nearly two weeks of intense fighting and forms part of a broader 14-point agreement aimed at reintegrating the SDF into Syria's military and state institutions.

Speaking in Damascus, Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa said the agreement would enable state institutions to reassert authority over three strategically important eastern and northern governorates—al-Hasakah, Deir Ezzor, and Raqqa. These regions have largely remained under SDF control since the height of Syria's civil war.

The announcement followed a high-level meeting between al-Sharaa and Tom Barrack, the US special envoy to Syria, who described the deal as an important step toward a unified Syria. SDF commander Mazloum Abdi was expected to attend the meeting but was unable to travel due to adverse weather, with his visit postponed until Monday, the president said.

In a televised address, Abdi confirmed that talks with Damascus had taken place and said he would brief Syria's Kurdish population after returning from the capital. Speaking on Kurdish television channel Ronahi, Abdi said the agreement included an immediate ceasefire to prevent a wider conflict, stressing that recent fighting had been imposed on the SDF rather than initiated by it.

The SDF established its autonomous administration in northeastern Syria nearly a decade ago during the country's civil war, with strong backing from the United States.

EU Ambassadors Rally to Block Trump Tariffs

BRUSSELS

European Union ambassadors reached broad agreement to step up diplomatic efforts aimed at dissuading U.S. President Donald Trump from imposing sweeping tariffs on European allies, while simultaneously preparing retaliatory measures should the duties be implemented, according to EU diplomats familiar with the discussions. The move reflects growing concern in European capitals over what they see as an unprecedented use of trade policy to exert geopolitical pressure.

Trump vowed to roll out a wave of escalating tariffs beginning February 1 on a group of European countries, including Denmark, Sweden, France, Germany, Netherlands, and Finland, as well as United Kingdom and Norway. The threatened duties would initially stand at 10 per cent and could rise sharply in the coming months. Trump said the tariffs would remain in place until the United States is allowed to purchase Greenland, a position that has triggered strong backlash across Europe.

Senior EU officials described the threat as economic blackmail, warning that it risks undermining transatlantic relations and destabilising global trade at a time of heightened geopolitical uncertainty. Diplomats said ambassadors meeting in Brussels agreed that the immediate priority was to engage Washington through political and trade channels to prevent the tariffs from taking effect. At the same time, they emphasised the need to prepare proportionate countermeasures to protect European economic interests if talks fail.

The European Union is expected to coordinate closely with the European Commission on possible responses, which could include targeted tariffs on U.S. goods, legal challenges under international trade rules, or other defensive trade instruments. Officials stressed that unity among member states would be crucial to ensure credibility and effectiveness in any response.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

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6	8	1	3	4	7	5	9	2
4	9	2	8	5	1	6	7	3
5	7	3	9	6	2	8	1	4

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

EUROPE REJECTS BLACKMAIL

Europe Rejects Trump's Greenland Tariff Threats

COPENHAGEN

Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen has issued a firm warning that Europe will not be blackmailed after US President Donald Trump threatened sweeping new tariffs over opposition to his proposed takeover of Greenland. The comments came amid mounting transatlantic tensions sparked by Washington's latest trade and security rhetoric concerning the strategically important Arctic territory.

Trump has said the United States would impose a fresh 10 per cent levy on goods imported from eight allied nations if they resist his plan to acquire Greenland, an autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark. According to the US president, the tariffs would initially take effect on February 1 and could rise to 25 per cent by June. He said the duties would remain in place until such time as a deal is reached for the complete and total purchase of Greenland.

Frederiksen, along with other European leaders, issued a joint statement warning that such measures would risk undermining transatlantic relations and could trigger a dangerous downward spiral. The leaders reiterated their full solidarity with the Kingdom of Denmark and the people of Greenland, while stressing their commitment to strengthening Arctic security as a shared interest within NATO.

On Monday, Trump intensified his criticism, claiming NATO had been urging Denmark for two decades to counter what he described as a growing Russian threat in Greenland. Unfortunately, Denmark has been unable to do anything about it. Now it is time, and it will be done, he said, adding that Greenland was critical for US security. Trump has previously suggested Washington could obtain the territory the easy way or the hard way, and has not ruled out the use of force—remarks that have drawn widespread international condemnation.

The proposed tariffs would target Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Leaders from the eight countries emphasised their readiness to engage in dialogue, but only on the basis of sovereignty and territorial integrity. Writing separately on Facebook, Frederiksen said Denmark sought cooperation, not conflict, and welcomed the unified response from across Europe.

QUICK READ

PSBs sanction over 3.96 lakh MSME loan applications

Mumbai

More than 3.96 lakh MSME loan applications amounting to more than Rs 52,300 crore have been sanctioned by the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) under the digital credit underwriting programmes (between April 1 and December 31, 2025), the government said on Monday. The PSBs launched Credit Assessment Model (CAM) based on digital footprints for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) last year. According to Ministry of Finance, this credit assessment model leverages the digitally fetched and verifiable data available in the ecosystem and devise automated journeys for MSME Loan appraisal.

NALCO plans expansion, explores green power adoption: CMD

Bhubaneswar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' places strong emphasis on infrastructure development, overall economic growth, and achieving net-zero emissions as key priorities, NALCO's CMD Brijendra Pratap Singh said on Monday, adding that in alignment with this vision, we are planning an expansion of 0.5 million tonnes and are also exploring the adoption of green power. The chief of Aluminium major NALCO told IANS here that as part of their 2030 plan, we are proposing an expansion of Rs 30,000 crore, which includes a 0.5 million tonne smelter and a 1,080 MW thermal power plant. These are the two major units we are planning.

Sensex, Nifty end lower amid weak global cues

Mumbai

Indian stock markets ended lower on Monday as heavy selling in select heavyweight stocks dragged the benchmarks down, while global cues also remained cautious. The decline was largely led by stock-specific pressure after quarterly results from major companies such as Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank, which emerged as the biggest drags on the market. At the close, the Sensex ended at 83,246.18, down 324.17 points or 0.39 per cent. The Nifty settled at 25,585.5, falling 108.85 points or 0.42 per cent. The Nifty remained under bearish control, with the index sustaining below the 20 EMA throughout the session.

IMF Sees Global Economy Holding Firm Amid Trade Turbulence

The IMF projects steady global growth despite trade disruptions, while cautioning that AI-led investment could heighten future vulnerabilities

WASHINGTON

The global economy has demonstrated notable resilience despite significant trade disruptions led by the United States and a backdrop of heightened uncertainty, according to the International Monetary Fund. In its January 2026 World Economic Outlook Update, released on Monday, the International Monetary Fund projected that global economic growth would hold steady at 3.3 per cent in 2026, followed by a modest easing to 3.2 per cent in 2027.

In a blog published alongside the outlook, the IMF said global growth has remained broadly unchanged from a year earlier as the world economy shakes off the immediate impact of the tariff shock. The Fund attributed this stability to easing trade tensions, supportive financial conditions, and a strong wave of technology-driven investment. Compared to its October estimates, the IMF revised its growth forecast upward by 0.2 percentage points, with most of the improvement driven by stronger-than-expected performance in the United States and China.

A central factor underpinning this resilience has been a surge in investment in information technology, particularly artificial intelligence. The IMF noted that IT investment as a share of US economic output has reached its highest level since 2001, providing a significant boost to business investment and overall economic activity. These gains have also spilled over into global trade, especially benefiting Asia's technology export sectors.

Despite the positive outlook, the Fund observed that manufacturing activity remains subdued in several regions. Nevertheless, robust corporate earnings and favourable financial conditions have supported rising equity markets, enabling firms to finance new capital spending. At the same time, the IMF warned that increased reliance on debt financing has raised leverage levels, potentially amplifying economic shocks if expected returns fail to materialise or if financial conditions tighten.

The report also highlighted risks within the technology sector itself. Profitability could become increasingly sensitive to depreciation assumptions for advanced processors, as frequent equipment upgrades squeeze margins and necessitate additional borrowing.

Government Outlines Vision as India's Reinsurance Sector

Government leaders highlighted insurance's economic role as India targets inclusive growth and transformative expansion in reinsurance markets.

MUMBAI

Underscoring the vision of Insurance for All by 2047 as a roadmap for inclusive insurance growth, M. Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, on Monday said the Indian insurance sector plays a critical role in strengthening the country's financial system and broader economy. He noted that insurance not only provides protection against mortality, property, and casualty risks, but also encourages household savings and supplies long-term funds for infrastructure development and other long-gestation projects.

Addressing the third IFSC–IRDAI–GIFT City Global Reinsurance Summit held in Mumbai, the Secretary said India is at the cusp of transformative growth in its reinsurance sector. He highlighted the sector's expanding scale during FY 2024–25, when insurers issued 41.84 crore policies, collected premiums amounting to Rs 11.93 lakh crore, paid claims of Rs 8.36 lakh crore, and reported assets under management of Rs 74.44 lakh crore as of March 31. The total reinsurance market in India stood at Rs 1.12 lakh crore during the same period, reflecting growing depth and sophistication.

Referring to the broader global economic environment, Nagaraju observed that India, with a population exceeding 1.46 billion, remains the world's largest democracy and, despite challenging global conditions, has emerged as a key global player. He reiterated that India continues to be the world's fastest-growing major economy, offering long-term opportunities for insurers and reinsurers alike.

On global insurance trends, the Secretary cited the Swiss Re Sigma report, noting that after strong performance in 2024, premium growth in the global insurance industry has begun to slow across both life and non-life segments. This moderation, he said, is driven by a global economic slowdown and an increasingly unstable policy environment. According to Swiss Re, India ranked as the 10th largest insurance market globally by nominal premium volumes in 2024, with a market share of 1.8 per cent.

Despite this progress, significant headroom for expansion remains. Insurance penetration in India stood at 3.7 per cent, with life insurance at 2.7 per cent and non-life insurance at 1 per cent, while insurance density rose marginally to $97.

BRO recorded its highest-ever infrastructure spending in FY25 and aims to accelerate strategic connectivity nationwide in FY26

BRO Sets New Infrastructure Benchmark with Record Spending

NEW DELHI

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has achieved its highest-ever annual outlay of Rs 16,690 crore in FY 2024–25 for the construction and maintenance of strategic roads, bridges, tunnels, and airfields across the country, according to an official statement issued on Monday. Building on this momentum, the organisation has set an ambitious target of Rs 17,900 crore for FY 2025–26, signalling a continued push to strengthen infrastructure in border and inaccessible regions vital for both military preparedness and civilian development.

BRO, which operates in some of the most challenging terrains in the world, currently commands 18 dynamic field projects. Of these, nine are located in North West India, covering Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Rajasthan. Eight projects are spread across North East and Eastern India, including Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Meghalaya, while one overseas project operates in Bhutan. Collectively, these projects span 11 States and three Union Territories, delivering strategic assets such as roads, bridges, tunnels, airfields, and tele-medicine nodes that reinforce national security and socio-economic development under initiatives like Act East and the Vibrant Villages Programme.

In Arunachal Pradesh, key BRO projects—Vartak, Arunank, Udayak, and Brahmank—are tackling some of India's most demanding frontiers. These efforts connect remote villages to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) through critical infrastructure including the Sisseri Bridge, Siyom Bridge, Sela Tunnel, and Nechiphu Tunnel.

In Ladakh, projects such as Himank, Beacon, Deepak, Vijayak, and Yojak maintain vital lifelines to Kargil, Leh, and the Karakoram region. Strategic routes including the Srinagar–Leh highway, the Darbuk–Shyok–DBO Road, the Atal Tunnel, and the under-construction Shinku La Tunnel are ensuring reliable all-weather connectivity.

The Northeast has also seen strengthened access through projects like Swastik in Sikkim, Pushpak in Mizoram, Setuk in Assam and Meghalaya, and Sewak in Nagaland and Manipur. On the western front, Sampark in Jammu and Kashmir and Chetak in Rajasthan enhance strategic mobility, while Shivalik supports the Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand.

Market share of homes priced above ₹1 cr reaches 63 pc

MUMBAI

The housing market in India demonstrated clear premiumisation trends with sustained demand in higher price segments, as apartments above Rs 1 crore increased their share to 63 per cent in 2025 from 53 per cent in 2024, reflecting buyers' preference for value-driven purchases despite overall volume decline, a report showed on Monday. This was especially evident in the Rs 1.5-Rs 3.0 crore category, which saw demand increase by approximately 19 per cent compared to 2024, according to the report by JLL. Chennai emerged as standout performer with exceptional 31 per cent on-year growth, reaching 14,837-unit sales. While all other cities saw a decline in sales, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Pune each surpassed 50,000 units, collectively capturing 63 per cent of annual sales. These three cities demonstrated market resilience during moderation phases, supported by robust employment, established infrastructure, strong purchasing power and quality lifestyle amenities, said the report.

India-EU Talks Focus on Trade, Defence

NEW DELHI

India and the European Union are set to announce the conclusion of a free trade agreement, firming up of a defence partnership pact and a framework for mobility of Indian professionals at the summit talks next week, diplomatic sources said on Monday.

European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will be the chief guests at the Republic Day celebrations on January 26, and the India-EU summit will be held the next day.

A military contingent from the EU, featuring the military staff flag and flags of Operations Atalanta and Aspides, the naval operations of the grouping, will feature at the Republic Day parade. This is only the second time that India has invited leaders of a grouping – after the Asean in 2018 – to be chief guests at the celebrations, an honour reserved for the country's closest strategic and economic partners. Disruptions and geo-economic churn created by the trade policies of the US added urgency to efforts to finalise the trade deal.

RBI Governor meets UCB Leaders, Calls for Stronger Governance

NEW DELHI

As part of the Reserve Bank of India's continued engagement with regulated entities, the Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Sanjay Malhotra, on Monday held a high-level meeting in Mumbai with the Chairpersons and Managing Directors & Chief Executive Officers of select Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs). The previous such interaction was held on March 19, 2025. The meeting was attended by Deputy Governors Swaminathan J. and S. C. Murmu, along with other senior officials of the Reserve Bank of India. Prominent UCBs represented at the meeting included Saraswat Bank (Chairman: Gautam Thakur); SVC Bank (Chairman: Durgesh Chandavarkar; CEO: Ravinder Singh); TJSB Bank (Chairman: Sharad Gangal); Cosmos Cooperative Bank (Chairman: Adv. Pralhad Kokare); Janata Sahakari Bank.

Silver at lifetime high, hits ₹3 lakh per kg on MCX

MUMBAI

Silver prices surged to a fresh lifetime high on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) on Monday, with the precious white metal touching the Rs 3 lakh per kg mark during the intra-day session. The rally was driven by strong safe-haven demand amid rising global uncertainties. The rally in silver came alongside fresh record highs in gold.

The silver futures contract on MCX for March 2026 expiry opened with a strong upside gap at Rs 2,93,100 per kg and quickly extended gains to hit an intra-day high of Rs 3,01,315 per kg.

In INR silver has support at Rs 2,85,810, 2,82,170 while resistance at Rs 2,94,810, 2,96,470, an analyst stated. This marked a new all-time peak for silver on the domestic exchange. Even after some profit booking from higher levels, MCX silver prices managed to trade firmly and sustain above the crucial Rs 3 lakh per kg zone.

Gold prices also witnessed a sharp move higher. The gold futures contract on MCX for February 2026 expiry opened at Rs 1,43,321 per 10 grams and touched an intra-day high of Rs 1,45,500 per 10 grams within minutes of the opening bell. Gold has support at Rs1,41,650-1,40,310 while resistance at Rs1,44,150-1,45,670, as per the analyst. Although prices later cooled off slightly, gold continued to trade at elevated levels, showing resilience after mild profit-taking.

In the international market, COMEX gold prices are finding immediate support near $4,620 per ounce, while a stronger support zone is placed around $4,580 per ounce.

GCCs emerge as primary growth driver for India's office market

NEW DELHI

Global Capability Centres (GCCs) emerged as the primary growth driver of India's office market in 2025, accounting for 45 per cent of the total pan-India absorption, up from 41 per cent in 2024, a report showed on Monday. In absolute terms, GCC-led absorption reached 34.9 million square feet, registering a 20 per cent year-on-year increase, said the Vestian report.

The report further stated that strong demand from GCCs, supported by a favourable policy environment and restrictions on the H1-B visa, propelled pan-India office absorption to an all-time high of 78.2 mn sq ft in 2025. Despite ongoing global macroeconomic uncertainties and geopolitical headwinds, total absorption recorded an 11 per cent year-on-year growth, underscoring the resilience of India's office market, the report mentioned. Office absorption continued to outpace new supply by a wide margin in 2025, leading to a notable improvement in occupancy levels. The pan-India vacancy rate declined by 310 basis points, from 13.9 per cent in 2024 to 10.8 per cent in 2025.

BHEL Q3 SURGE

BHEL Posts Three-Fold Profit Surge in Q3 FY26

NEW DELHI

State-owned engineering major Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) on Monday reported a robust financial performance for the third quarter of FY 2025–26, posting a more than three-fold jump in standalone net profit to Rs 382.49 crore. This marked a significant improvement over the Rs 124.77 crore profit recorded in the corresponding October–December quarter of the previous financial year, reflecting stronger operational execution and improving business conditions.

BHEL's revenue from operations rose 16.4 per cent year-on-year to Rs 8,473.10 crore during the quarter under review. The growth was supported by steady execution across both its power and industrial segments, which continue to form the backbone of the company's business portfolio. The company also maintained sequential momentum compared with the second quarter of FY26, signalling improving operating leverage and better cost efficiencies.

A segment-wise break-up showed that the power business remained the dominant contributor, with revenues of Rs 6,322.36 crore in the third quarter. The industrial segment also delivered a stable performance, generating revenues of Rs 2,150.74 crore during the same period. The sustained traction in these segments underlines BHEL's strong order execution capabilities amid a gradually improving investment environment. Alongside its financial results, BHEL cautioned that the newly implemented Labour Codes, which came into effect from November 21, 2025, could have an impact on its future financials. The government has rolled out four Labour Codes aimed at simplifying and streamlining India's labour laws, with a focus on ensuring better wages, improved safety standards, enhanced social security, and stronger welfare measures for workers.

The four Labour Codes include the Code on Wages, 2019; the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; the Code on Social Security, 2020; and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.

VOLCANOES Around the World

Volcanoes stand as some of nature's most awe-inspiring and formidable phenomena, shaping landscapes, influencing climates, and reminding humanity of the immense power churning beneath Earth's surface. From the fiery peaks of the Pacific Ring of Fire to the snow-capped stratovolcanoes of the Andes, these geological wonders are scattered across every continent except Australia, testament to our planet's dynamic and ever-changing nature.

No discussion of global volcanism is complete without the Pacific Ring of Fire, a 40,000-kilometer horseshoe-shaped zone encircling the Pacific Ocean. This volatile region contains about 75 percent of the world's active and dormant volcanoes, earning its name from the frequent earthquakes and eruptions that occur along its margins.

The Ring of Fire follows the boundaries of the Pacific Plate and several neighboring plates, forming a nearly continuous chain of subduction zones, volcanic arcs, and seismic belts. Beginning at the southern tip of South America, it runs north along the western coasts of Central and North America, curves through Alaska's Aleutian Islands, and then extends south past the Kamchatka Peninsula, Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia, and New Zealand.

This boundary hosts some of the planet's most famous volcanoes. Japan's Mount Fuji, known for its symmetrical cone, last erupted in 1707, blanketing nearby regions in ash and remaining under close scientific surveillance. Indonesia, situated at the intersection of three tectonic plates, contains over 130 active volcanoes, the most of any country. Krakatoa's 1883 eruption was among history's deadliest, producing massive tsunamis, audible explosions across continents, and atmospheric effects that cooled global temperatures.

Similarly, Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines erupted violently in 1991 after centuries of dormancy, releasing vast amounts of ash and sulfur dioxide that temporarily lowered Earth's average temperature by 0.5 degrees Celsius.

Understanding Volcanic Formation

At their core, volcanoes are ruptures in Earth's crust through which molten rock, gases, and debris can escape from below the surface. The planets outer shell, known as the lithosphere, is broken into massive tectonic plates that float atop the semi-molten asthenosphere. Where these plates interact—whether pulling apart, colliding, or sliding past one another—conditions become ripe for volcanic activity.

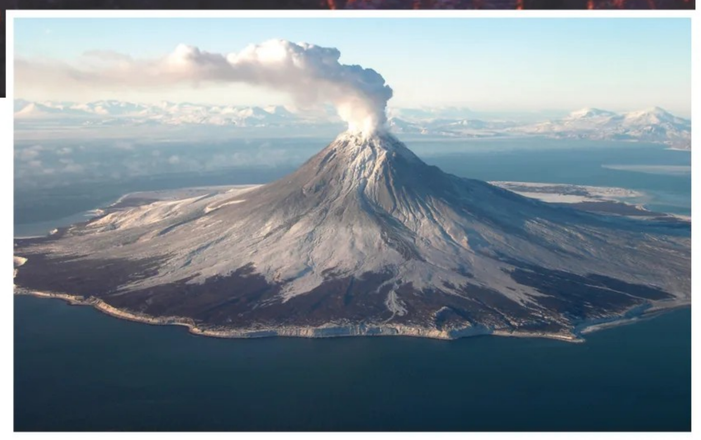
The majority of the world's volcanoes emerge along tectonic plate boundaries. Subduction zones, where one plate slides beneath another, create particularly dramatic volcanic chains. As the descending plate sinks deeper into the mantle, intense heat and pressure cause it to release water and other volatiles, which lower the melting point of the surrounding rock. This newly formed magma, being less dense than the solid rock around it, rises toward the surface, eventually erupting to form volcanoes.

Not all volcanoes form at plate boundaries, however. Hotspots—stationary plumes of exceptionally hot material rising from deep within the mantle can burn through tectonic plates like a blowtorch through metal. The Hawaiian Islands exemplify this process, with each island representing a volcano that formed as the Pacific Plate slowly moved over a stationary hotspot, creating a chain of volcanic islands stretching across the ocean.

African and Asian Volcanic Systems

Africa's volcanic activity concentrates along the East African Rift System, where the continent is slowly tearing apart. Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak at 5,895 meters, consists of three volcanic cones, though it has been dormant for thousands of years. More active is Mount Nyiragongo in the Democratic Republic of Congo, home to one of the world's largest lava lakes. The volcano's exceptionally fluid lava can travel at speeds up to 100 kilometers per hour during eruptions, leaving little time for evacuation. In 2002, lava flows bisected the city of Goma, destroying thousands of buildings and displacing hundreds of thousands of residents.

Asia beyond the Ring of Fire also hosts significant volcanic systems. The Caucasus region contains numerous volcanoes, while Iran, Turkey, and Armenia have volcanic landscapes shaped by complex tectonic interactions. Mount Ararat, traditionally associated with the biblical account of Noah's Ark, is a dormant stratovolcano sitting on the border region between Turkey, Armenia, and Iran.



European Volcanoes

Though less numerous than in the Pacific region, European volcanoes have profoundly influenced history and culture. Italy hosts several active volcanic systems, with Mount Vesuvius being perhaps the most historically significant. The volcano's eruption in 79 CE buried the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum under meters of ash and pumice, preserving them in remarkable detail for nearly 2,000 years. Vesuvius remains active and poses a significant threat to the Naples metropolitan area, where millions of people live within potential range of future eruptions.

Mount Etna, located on the Italian island of Sicily, ranks among the world's most active volcanoes with an eruptive history spanning thousands of years. Unlike the explosive stratovolcanoes that dominate many volcanic regions, Etna frequently produces effusive eruptions of relatively fluid lava that flows down its slopes, occasionally threatening nearby towns. The volcano's persistent activity has made it a natural laboratory for volcanologists studying eruptive processes.

Iceland's volcanic landscape results from its unique position straddling the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where the North American and Eurasian plates are actively pulling apart. This rifting creates volcanic activity combined with extensive geothermal systems that Icelanders have harnessed for heating and electricity. The 2010 eruption of Eyjafjallajökull, though relatively small, generated enormous ash clouds that disrupted air travel across Europe for weeks, reminding the modern world how vulnerable our interconnected systems remain to natural phenomena.

Volcanoes of the Americas

The Americas showcase volcanic diversity from north to south. The Cascade Range, stretching from British Columbia through Washington, Oregon, and into Northern California, contains numerous stratovolcanoes formed by the Juan de Fuca Plate subducting beneath the North American Plate. Mount St. Helens became a household name after its explosive 1980 eruption, which removed the top 400 meters of the mountain, killed 57 people, and devastated hundreds of square kilometers of forest. The eruption served as a stark reminder that even in modern times, volcanic activity can catch communities off guard with devastating consequences.

Further south, the Cascade volcanic arc includes Mount Rainier, considered one of the most dangerous volcanoes in the world due to its proximity to the Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan area and its massive volume of glacial ice. Should Rainier erupt, lahars—volcanic mudflows—could race down river valleys at highway speeds, potentially reaching areas where hundreds of thousands of people live and work.

Central America's volcanic landscape reflects the subduction of the Cocos Plate beneath the Caribbean Plate. Countries like Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica host numerous active volcanoes that have shaped both the physical landscape and cultural history of the region. Guatemala's Volcán de Fuego, one of Central America's most active volcanoes, regularly produces spectacular eruptions visible from the colonial city of Antigua. In 2018, a particularly violent eruption sent deadly pyroclastic flows cascading down populated slopes, killing hundreds and displacing thousands more.

South America's volcanic activity concentrates along the Andes Mountains, where the Nazca Plate subducts beneath the South American Plate. This process has created some of the world's highest volcanoes, many exceeding 6,000 meters in elevation. Chile and Argentina share numerous volcanic peaks, while Ecuador's Avenue of the Volcanoes contains dozens of snow-capped giants. Cotopaxi, one of the highest active volcanoes on Earth at 5,897 meters, threatens Ecuador's capital Quito with potential lahars should it erupt significantly. The volcano has erupted more than 50 times since 1738, making it one of the most active in the Andes.

Monitoring and Living with Volcanoes

Modern volcano monitoring has become increasingly sophisticated, employing networks of seismometers to detect earthquakes that often precede eruptions, GPS stations to measure ground deformation, gas sensors to analyze changes in volcanic emissions, and satellite technology to monitor thermal anomalies and ground movement from space. These tools allow volcanologists to provide increasingly accurate eruption forecasts, though predicting the precise timing and magnitude of eruptions remains challenging.

Despite the dangers, hundreds of millions of people worldwide live in the shadow of active volcanoes. The reasons are manifold: volcanic soils are exceptionally fertile, making areas around volcanoes prime agricultural land; geothermal energy provides renewable power; and many volcanic regions hold deep cultural and spiritual significance for indigenous populations who have lived alongside these mountains for generations. In places like Indonesia, the Philippines, and Central America, the benefits of volcanic landscapes have been deemed worth the risks, creating a complex relationship between humanity and these geological giants.

The Future of Volcanic Activity

Volcanic activity will persist as long as Earth's interior remains hot and dynamic. Climate change may influence eruptions as melting glaciers alter magma pressures. Improved monitoring now saves lives. Volcanoes reveal a restless planet, balancing creation and destruction, shaping landscapes for billions of years and demanding continued understanding and respect.

Villa stumble vs Everton as Premier League title race throws up shocks

Defensive error costs Villa at home as title contenders endure surprise weekend

BIRMINGHAM

Aston Villa became the latest side to falter in an increasingly unpredictable Premier League title race, suffering a 1–0 home defeat to Everton after a costly defensive mistake. The loss capped a weekend of surprising results that stalled the momentum of several teams chasing leaders Arsenal.

The decisive moment came in the 59th minute when Villa centre-back Pau Torres surrendered possession on the edge of his own penalty area. Goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez then failed to deal cleanly with a tame effort, allowing Everton striker Thierno Barry to pounce and delicately finish for the game's only goal.

Victory would have lifted Villa above Manchester City into second place and reduced the gap to Arsenal to just four points. Instead, Unai Emery's side missed a golden opportunity, mirroring the frustrations of other title challengers. Arsenal were held to a goalless draw at Nottingham Forest on Saturday, while City earlier lost 2–0 to Manchester United in the derby. Fourth-placed Liverpool also stumbled, drawing 1–1 at home to struggling Burnley.

The defeat marked Villa's first at home since August 31 and ended an impressive run of 11 consecutive home victories in all competitions at Villa Park — the club's best such streak since the 1989–90 season. Despite the setback, Villa remain level on points with second-placed City, trailing on goal difference, and sit seven points behind Arsenal.

Emery played down Villa's title credentials after the match, insisting his side were exceeding expectations. "We are still not a contender to be in the top five," he said. "There are other teams with more potential than us."

Everton's win lifted them to 10th place and further eased relegation concerns.

Elsewhere, bottom-placed Wolverhampton Wanderers continued a late resurgence by holding Newcastle United to a 0–0 draw. It was the league's 17th goalless stalemate this season and extended Wolves' unbeaten run to five games in all competitions, though they remain 14 points from safety. The draw ended Newcastle's three-match winning streak, leaving them eighth, two points shy of fifth-placed Manchester United.

Barcelona's 11-game winning run snapped in dramatic loss at Real Sociedad

Disallowed goals, woodwork strikes and heroics end Barcelona's streak in La Liga.

MADRID

Barcelona's remarkable 11-game winning streak came to an end in cruel fashion as the Catalan giants went down 2–1 to Real Sociedad in a Spanish league clash marked by controversy, near-misses and outstanding goalkeeping.

The visitors endured a night of frustration, having three goals disallowed in the first half alone, seeing a penalty decision overturned by VAR and striking the woodwork on five occasions. Despite dominating large spells, Barcelona were unable to overcome a resilient Sociedad side inspired by goalkeeper Álex Remiro, who produced a series of fine saves.

"Disappointed, because we created a lot of opportunities. The result does not reflect our game," said Barcelona coach Hansi Flick. "Sometimes you invest a lot of energy and are unlucky, but I appreciated what I saw."

Sociedad took the lead in the 32nd minute when Mikel Oyarzabal volleyed in at the far post. Barcelona eventually drew level in the 70th minute through a Marcus Rashford header, but the joy was short-lived as Gonçalo Guedes restored the hosts' advantage just a minute later with a close-range finish.

Earlier, Barcelona thought they had taken the lead when Fermín López scored from distance, but VAR ruled out the goal for a foul in the buildup. Efforts from Frenkie de Jong and Lamine Yamal were also chalked off, while Yamal had a first-half penalty reversed after being judged offside. Jules Koundé's late header striking the woodwork summed up Barcelona's evening.

The defeat leaves Barcelona just one point clear of second-placed Real Madrid, who beat Levante 2–0 on Saturday. Sociedad, meanwhile, claimed a second straight win to move up to eighth place.

Elsewhere, Atlético Madrid edged relegation-threatened Alaves 1–0 at home through an Alexander Sorloth header early in the second half. Valencia climbed out of the relegation zone with a late 1–0 win at Getafe, while Celta Vigo continued their fine form with a 3–0 home victory over 10-man Rayo Vallecano.

Nadal set for Aus Open return days after Federer exhibition match

MELBOURNE

Rafael Nadal will return to Melbourne Park this week, marking his first Australian Open appearance since stepping away from professional tennis three years ago.

Three years after his last competitive outing at the Australian Open, Nadal's presence adds further nostalgia to a tournament already celebrating its greatest champions. The Spaniard last played at Melbourne Park in 2023, when a second-round defeat was followed by an injury that eventually hastened the end of his storied career. Nadal formally retired in 2024 after representing Spain at the Davis Cup Finals. His return comes just days after longtime rival and close friend Roger Federer made an emotional comeback to Rod Laver Arena. On Saturday, Federer featured in a star-studded "Battle of the World No. 1s" exhibition doubles match alongside Ash Barty and Andre Agassi, taking on Australian greats Lleyton Hewitt and Pat Rafter as part of the Australian Open's first-ever opening ceremony. It was Federer's first appearance at the venue since 2020. Unlike Federer, Nadal will not step onto the court for an exhibition. Instead, the 22-time Grand Slam champion will headline the AO Night of Legends on the men's singles final day. Appearing at the Kia Arena alongside Ash Barty and Paralympic legend Dylan Alcott, Nadal is expected to reflect on his Australian Open journey, memorable matches and enduring legacy at the tournament.

Chaotic final sees Senegal triumph in extra time after controversial stoppage-time penalty

Senegal crowned Africa Cup champions after walk-off protest

RABAT

Senegal clinched their second Africa Cup of Nations title in extraordinary and chaotic circumstances, defeating host Morocco 1–0 in extra time after a final marred by a walk-off protest, crowd trouble and a highly controversial penalty decision late in normal time.

Pape Gueye emerged as the unlikely hero, scoring the decisive goal in the fourth minute of extra time after Senegal had survived a dramatic end to regulation. Deep into stoppage time, Senegal's players walked off the pitch to protest a penalty awarded to Morocco just moments after what appeared to be a legitimate Senegal goal was disallowed at the other end. The ensuing chaos saw fans attempting to storm the field and stewards struggling to restore order inside the Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium.

After a stoppage of around 14 minutes, play eventually resumed. Morocco's star forward Brahim Díaz had the chance to settle the final with the last kick of normal time, but his attempted Panenka penalty was calmly saved by Senegal goalkeeper Édouard Mendy, who caught the softly chipped effort with ease.

Moments into extra time, Gueye swept a left-footed strike into the top-right corner, sparking celebrations among the Senegal players as large sections of the 69,500-capacity stadium emptied rapidly. Few spectators remained to witness captain Sadio Mané lift the trophy.

The flashpoint arrived when Senegal had a stoppage-time goal ruled out for a foul, before Morocco were awarded a penalty following a VAR review for a pull inside the box. The decision triggered clashes between players, substitutes and fans, with Senegal coach Pape Thiaw leading his team off the field in protest. "It wasn't easy, but we came back, stayed focused and gave everything," Gueye said. "Sadio told us to regroup, and Édouard's save gave us belief."

The triumph marks Senegal's second Africa Cup crown, following their 2021 victory over Egypt on penalties. For Morocco, still waiting for a first title in five decades, the loss was a bitter blow despite heavy investment in football infrastructure and home advantage.

Indian footballer Manisha Kalyan joins Peruvian club

NEW DELHI

Indian women's team midfielder Manisha Kalyan has taken another significant step in her international career, signing with Peruvian club Alianza Lima, the four-time domestic champions announced. The 24-year-old becomes one of the few Indian footballers to play professionally in South America, with Alianza Lima stating that her arrival is aimed at strengthening the team's attacking options. Manisha joins the club from Greek side PAOK FC, where she competed at the highest level of European football. Already a trailblazer, Manisha had earlier made history by becoming the first Indian footballer to feature in the UEFA Women's Champions League, a landmark achievement that raised her profile on the global stage. This move marks her third overseas club stint, following spells with PAOK FC in Greece and Apollon Ladies FC in Peru. At home, she has represented Sethu FC and Gokulam Kerala with distinction. "Alianza Lima Women's team announces the signing of Manisha Kalyan, an Indian midfielder who will bolster the team's attack," the club said in a statement, highlighting her dynamism and creativity in the final third.

Training camp for athletes, coaches inaugurated in Guwahati

GUWAHATI

The Department of Sports and Youth Welfare, Assam, in collaboration with the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS), has inaugurated a high-performance training camp for athletes and coaches across seven sports in Guwahati. The initiative aims to develop sporting talent in the state while enhancing coaching standards through modern, internationally benchmarked methods.

The camps were inaugurated by Kausar J. Hilaly, Secretary, Sports and Youth Welfare, Government of Assam. Training for chess, table tennis, and tennis began while Taekwondo sessions are scheduled to start on Monday. Athletics, archery, and swimming will also be included under the IIS-supported high-performance framework.

The chess camp, hosted at the Civil Services Officers' Institute in Khanapara, features guidance from Bulgaria's Dejan Bojkov and India's Vishal Sareen. Forty-seven athletes and coaches from Assam are participating, with the camp running until January 27.

At Bhogeswari Phukanani Indoor Stadium in Dispur, the table tennis camp is conducted by international coach Sekpong Yomjinda from Thailand. Fifty-two athletes and six coaches from Assam are attending the sessions, which continue until January 24.

Meanwhile, the tennis camp at the Department of Sports Tennis Courts in Dispur is led by Brazilian coach Vinicius Ono, with 32 players and six coaches taking part. These camps emphasize a long-term training model aligned with India's Olympic roadmap, aiming to nurture new talent and enhance existing skills among athletes and coaches alike.

"This initiative will strengthen Assam's sporting ecosystem and provide exposure to international standards," said an official from the Department of Sports.

The high-performance camps reflect Assam's commitment to developing world-class athletes and coaching personnel, offering structured, high-quality training for the state's emerging sports talent.

India Open mess exposes poor upkeep, governance gaps at IG Stadium complex

CHENNAI

The India Open badminton tournament in New Delhi turned into an uncomfortable reflection of India's fragile sporting infrastructure, with pollution, hygiene lapses and poor stadium upkeep dominating headlines instead of elite competition. While Delhi's winter AQI woes are well documented, the problems at the Indira Gandhi (IG) Stadium complex during the 750-level BWF World Tour event ran far deeper than air quality alone.

Matches were halted repeatedly due to bird droppings falling onto the court, pigeons perched across the roof structure, and even a monkey casually wandering through the stands — scenes more befitting viral clips than a premier international sporting event. Curt reactions from players, including Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt and World No. 3 Anders Antonsen, underlined the embarrassment. Antonsen eventually withdrew citing pollution, while others openly criticised the "dirty and unhealthy" playing conditions.

The India Open, hosted since 2008 and now one rung below the elite 1000-level BWF events, attracts over 250 players from more than 20 countries. The stakes are even higher given that the venue is scheduled to host the World Championships later this year. That such disruptions occurred repeatedly — with Sunday the only uninterrupted day — inevitably revived memories of infrastructure failures from the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

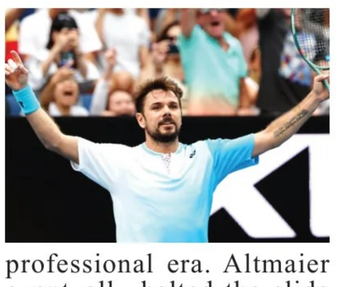
While the Badminton Association of India (BAI) handled event operations, stadium maintenance lies firmly with the Sports Authority of India (SAI), which oversees five major sports complexes in Delhi, including IG Stadium. All civil and electrical works, including renovations, are executed through the Central Public Works Department (CPWD). Despite annual maintenance budgets running into over ₹100 crore across these venues, under-utilisation and neglect remain chronic issues.

SAI officials have acknowledged long-standing pigeon infestations due to large vents and ducts, yet competitions continue to be scheduled without permanent solutions. With limited usage — just a handful of camps and bookings annually — weeks of last-minute fixes cannot compensate for years of neglect.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2026

Cilic storms through Altmaier as Wawrinka grinds on

MELBOURNE



Former finalist Marin Cilic rolled back the years with a blistering first-round performance at the Australian Open 2026, demolishing Germany's Daniel Altmaier 6-0, 6-0, 7-6(3) to make a fast start at Melbourne Park on Monday. Fellow veteran Stan Wawrinka also advanced, underlining the enduring presence of experience in the men's draw.

The 37-year-old Cilic, runner-up in Melbourne in 2018, won the first 12 games in ruthless fashion, briefly raising the prospect of a rare "triple bagel" in a Grand Slam main draw. Only five players have achieved the feat in the professional era. Altmaier eventually halted the slide early in the third set, snapping a 25-game losing streak dating back to last week's Adelaide International, before pushing the Croatian into a tiebreak. Cilic steadied himself after falling behind in the breaker to seal the win in emphatic style.

Wawrinka, the 2014 Australian Open champion, then joined Cilic in the second round with a battling 5-7, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6(4) victory over Serbia's Laslo Djere. The 40-year-old Swiss, playing his final Australian Open after announcing 2026 will be his last season, showed trademark grit to recover from a set down and close out the match under pressure. Elsewhere, American star Coco Gauff and Russia's Daniil Medvedev also progressed, while seventh seed Felix Auger-Aliassime was forced to retire with cramp in sweltering conditions. Gauff overcame Uzbekistan's Kamilla Rakhimova 6-2, 6-3 despite an error-strewn display, and Medvedev ground out a straight-sets win over Jesper de Jong.

Youngsters must mirror Kohli's mindset after poor starts hurt India: Gavaskar

Legendary Sunil Gavaskar urges Indian youngsters to emulate Virat Kohli's situational batting mindset

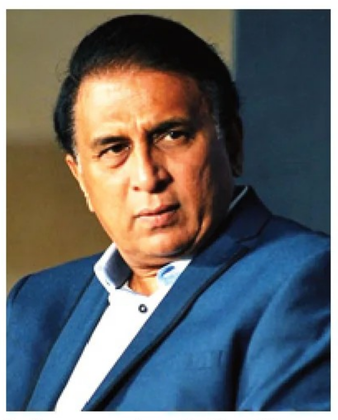
NEW DELHI

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has attributed India's ODI series loss to New Zealand to consistently poor starts, stressing that the team's youngsters must learn from Virat Kohli's approach to batting under pressure. India went down by 41 runs in the third and final ODI in Indore, conceding the series 2–1 and suffering their first-ever home ODI series defeat to New Zealand.

Chasing a challenging target of 338, India faltered early once again, losing half their side for 159. While Kohli produced a magnificent 108-ball 124, his efforts went in vain due to the lack of substantial partnerships around him. Gavaskar said the inability to build solid foundations proved decisive throughout the series.

"Unless Virat Kohli got substantial support, it was always going to be difficult. The real problem for India has been the starts. As they say, well begun is half done," Gavaskar said. He pointed out that India's repeated failures at the top meant they were always playing catch-up while chasing big totals.

Gavaskar also highlighted how the loss of in-form batters at crucial moments tilted the



balance against India. He explained that once KL Rahul was dismissed, the onus fell on relatively inexperienced players, making the chase increasingly uphill.

The former opener reserved special praise for Kohli's temperament and flexibility, urging young batters not to be constrained by perceived expectations. "Virat isn't tied down to an image. He plays according to the situation. Sometimes he starts watchfully, sometimes he attacks early. He never gives up," Gavaskar said, adding that this mindset is the biggest lesson for emerging players seeking consistency.

Gavaskar also lauded Harshit Rana's lower-order half-century, saying the youngster impressed him with his composure and ability to stay in the moment despite earlier failures. According to Gavaskar, such mental strength, combined with Kohli's situational awareness, is what India's next generation must embrace to succeed at the highest level.

India must convert starts, sharpen catching after home series loss: Gill

INDORE

India captain Shubman Gill admitted that his side's inability to convert starts into substantial scores and a series of costly fielding lapses proved decisive in their historic bilateral ODI series defeat at home against New Zealand. Gill said the difference between the two teams lay in batting longevity and execution under pressure.

"For me, it wasn't that we didn't bat well, it was that we didn't bat long enough," Gill said. "When batsmen get starts and don't convert them in high-scoring matches, it becomes very difficult. At least two batters need to play that long innings, and that's where New Zealand were better than us."

India's struggle to build on promising beginnings haunted them throughout the series, including in Indore where Virat Kohli's century briefly revived hopes. Gill acknowledged his own inability to push on after getting set in earlier games, stressing that it was a collective issue rather than an individual failing.

"When their batsmen got set, they scored long," he said. "Even in the first two matches, I got starts but couldn't convert them into big hundreds. As a batting unit, that's something we need to improve."

Gill also addressed Ravindra Jadeja's recent dip in wicket-taking impact, noting that while the all-rounder looked in good touch with the bat, the returns with the ball have not matched past standards. "Jaddu has been a strike option for us over the years. Sometimes series don't go your way, but you learn and grow from it," he said.

Fielding lapses emerged as another key concern. "We dropped catches at very important stages. On wickets like these, bowlers are forcing chances, and when catches don't stick, momentum shifts," Gill admitted.

Despite the disappointment, Gill highlighted positives, particularly Harshit Rana's emergence as a lower-order batting option and high-pace bowling prospect. Looking ahead, the skipper struck a measured note, insisting the defeat offers clarity rather than crisis as India work towards refining their approach in upcoming series.

Tata Steel Masters Chess: Praggnanandhaa falters again

WIJK AAN ZEE, THE NETHERLANDS

Defending champion R. Praggnanandhaa endured another difficult day at the Tata Steel Masters Chess as he slumped to his second successive defeat, while world champion D. Gukesh was held to a hard-fought draw by local favourite Jorden van Foreest in round two of the prestigious tournament.

Praggnanandhaa, who had enjoyed a stellar run for much of 2025, appeared to be running out of momentum as a seemingly drawable endgame slipped away against Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov.

Playing with the black pieces in a Queen's Gambit Declined, the Indian equalised comfortably out of the opening before a mistake on his 31st move allowed Abdusattorov to gain a crucial pawn advantage in the rook-and-pawns endgame. Although experts felt the position should still have held, Praggnanandhaa failed to find the precise defensive resources and resigned on move 60.

With zero points from two rounds, Praggnanandhaa finds himself rooted to the bottom of the standings and now faces the daunting task of mounting a comeback across the remaining 11 rounds if he is to defend his title.

Meanwhile, Gukesh showed resilience but had to be content with a draw against van Foreest. After an irregular opening, the game developed into a complex middlegame in which Gukesh sacrificed a bishop to force perpetual checks, ensuring a share of the point. The draw took his tally to one point from two games.

IND vs NZ ODI series:

Daryl Mitchell hails landmark triumph in India

INDORE

New Zealand batter calls historic ODI series win in India immensely significant.

New Zealand's dependable middle-order batter Daryl Mitchell described his side's ODI series victory in India as "very, very significant," underlining the importance of conquering one of the toughest assignments in world cricket. Mitchell, who struck back-to-back centuries in the second ODI and the series decider, played a central role in New Zealand's 2–1 triumph — their first-ever bilateral ODI series win on Indian soil.

Mitchell reflected on the journey of New Zealand teams touring India over the years and the value of those experiences. "A number of New Zealand teams have come here in the past in ODI cricket, and every time we tour India we learn and grow as a team," he said. "But to come here with this group and achieve what we have achieved is something the guys are very proud of. Some players will be heading home with big smiles on their faces."

Mitchell also spoke warmly about playing in India and the unique atmosphere that accompanies cricket in the country. Accustomed to more modest crowds back home, the New Zealand batter said the energy in Indian stadiums was something players cherished. "We're used to smaller crowds, grass banks and all that. Then you come here and experience the noise and passion. It's incredible and truly special," he added.

The 33-year-old acknowledged that his stints in the Indian Premier League had played a key role in preparing him for subcontinent conditions. Having represented Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals in the past, Mitchell said the exposure helped him understand Indian pitches and match situations better.

"I'm very grateful for the time I spent in Chennai and Rajasthan. Hopefully, I might be back here again in the future," he said. "India is a great place to tour. Playing in front of crowds like this is pretty cool and very special."

Mitchell's consistency and composure stood out throughout the series, underlining why he has increasingly become a thorn in India's flesh and a cornerstone of New Zealand's success in challenging overseas conditions.

Ramiz Raja's "Make Some Noise" Appeal Falls Flat

DHAKA

Pakistan cricket legend Ramiz Raja faced embarrassment at a Bangladesh Premier League match. During the BPL 2026 fixture, Ramiz Raja asked the crowd to "make some noise" before the start of the game. To his surprise, fans remained largely silent, leaving the former Pakistan captain stunned. Realising the awkwardness, he quipped, "They don't want to make some noise," a moment that quickly went viral on social media.

AIFF, ISL clubs reach broad understanding, focus shifts to fixtures planning

ISL governance impasse eases as AIFF softens veto stance

BENGALURU

Concerns surrounding the governance structure of the Indian Super League (ISL) have eased after the All India Football Federation (AIFF) agreed to soften its stance on veto powers in the league's proposed governing framework. The breakthrough comes days after ISL clubs raised strong objections to the federation's sweeping veto authority in the initial draft of the governance charter.

With the broad consensus now in place, attention has shifted to other pressing issues ahead of the much-delayed ISL season, scheduled to begin on February 14. Clubs and the federation are expected to hold a virtual meeting by midweek to finalise the fixture list, although lingering venue-related challenges for some teams could still impact the rollout.

The governance deadlock had emerged after clubs expressed discomfort with provisions that gave AIFF leadership veto rights over a wide range of matters, including commercial decisions, budgetary changes and broadcast partnerships. Several of the 14 participating clubs felt such powers could undermine those who operate and finance the league on a day-to-day basis.

Following consultations, the AIFF has agreed to revise the draft and is expected to present an updated version to the clubs by Tuesday. Under the revised framework, the federation will retain authority over core regulatory and footballing matters such as adherence to the Laws of the Game, disciplinary and integrity issues, anti-doping measures and compliance with national and international regulations.

However, the AIFF will step back from exercising veto powers on commercial, operational and scheduling decisions, which will instead be driven by the clubs and the league's future commercial rights holder. This compromise is seen as a significant step toward restoring trust and ensuring smoother functioning of the league.

In parallel, the AIFF has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for broadcast rights for the truncated ISL season. Interested bidders can seek clarifications until January 27, with final submissions due by February 1, along with a refundable deposit of Rs 5 lakh. Eligibility has been limited to broadcasters or internet operators with at least three years of experience and a minimum net worth of Rs 10 crore in the 2024–25 financial year.

As governance concerns subside, stakeholders are now racing against time to ensure the season launches as planned.

Tennis Australia defends prize money amid player complaints

MELBOURNE

Tennis Australia (TA) has pushed back against growing criticism from leading players over prize money at the Australian Open, insisting competitors are well supported despite calls for a larger share of Grand Slam revenues. The response comes amid renewed pressure from the sport's elite, including two-time Grand Slam champion Coco Gauff, who warned that players would intensify their demands if concerns remain unaddressed.

The Australian Open has increased its total prize pool to a record A$111.5 million ($74.56 million) for the 2026 edition, surpassing last year's

French Open and Wimbledon purses, though still trailing the U.S. Open's $90 million payout. The hike follows a joint letter sent by top players to the four Grand Slams in April last year, urging significant improvements in prize money distribution.

Despite recent expressions of dissatisfaction from some quarters at Melbourne Park, tournament director Craig Tiley said he had not received any direct complaints from players.

T20 WORLD CUP

ICC tells B'desh to play in India or face replacement

NEW DELHI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has issued a firm ultimatum to Bangladesh, rejecting the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) request to relocate its T20 World Cup matches away from India and warning that failure to comply with the original schedule could result in the team being replaced.

According to multiple media reports, the ICC has given Bangladesh until January 21 to confirm whether it will travel to India for the tournament, which begins on February 7 and is co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka. India are the defending champions.

The BCB had approached the ICC seeking a swap with Ireland in Group C, citing security concerns amid the ongoing diplomatic standoff between India and Bangladesh. Under the proposed arrangement, Bangladesh wanted to play its matches in Sri Lanka instead of India, while Ireland would take their place in India-based fixtures.

The ICC, however, is understood to have firmly turned down the proposal. Bangladesh are currently drawn in Group C alongside West Indies, England, Italy and Nepal, with matches scheduled in Kolkata and Mumbai. Ireland, placed in Group B with Sri Lanka, Australia, Oman and Zimbabwe, are slated to play in Colombo and Pallekele.

To address Bangladesh's concerns, a two-member ICC delegation — comprising Gaurav Saxena, General Manager (Events and Corporate Communications), and Andrew Ephgrave, General Manager (Integrity Unit) — recently visited Dhaka. The delegation reportedly briefed the BCB on security arrangements in India and reiterated the need to adhere to the published World Cup schedule.

Bangladesh's demand gained momentum following pacer Mustafizur Rahman's sudden delinking from his IPL contract with Kolkata Knight Riders, reportedly after a directive from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The BCB has cited the incident as part of its concerns over player safety.

Despite these representations, the ICC has maintained that there is no basis for altering fixtures, stressing that all participating teams must honour their commitments. Should Bangladesh refuse to travel, the governing body is believed to be prepared to replace them with a lower-ranked nation to preserve the tournament's integrity.

With the deadline looming, Bangladesh now face a critical decision that could have significant sporting and reputational consequences.

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